

# The City Bridge Trust

## Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



### About your organisation

Name of your organisation: <b>Forest School Harrow</b>	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? <b>Harrow</b>	
Contact person: <b>Revd James Mercer</b>	Position: <b>Coordinator</b>
Website: <b>http://www.forestschoollharrow.co.uk</b>	
Legal status of organisation: <b>Registered Charity</b>	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: <b>1151381</b>
When was your organisation established? <b>03/09/2012</b>	

### Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? <b>Improving London's Environment</b>
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? <b>More people reporting improved wellbeing through greater use of open spaces and through growing and greening initiatives</b>
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. <b>WASH needs a full time manager to expand numbers of young people attending, develop a training programme which extends outside Harrow, and create revenue</b>
When will the funding be required? <b>01/11/2015</b>
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: <b>£24,000</b> Year 2: <b>£24,000</b> Year 3: <b>£24,000</b>  <b>Total: £72,000</b>

**Aims of your organisation:**

Woodland Adventure Forest school works in partnership with schools, youth organisations, and charities to

- teach about the natural world, promote care for the environment and raise awareness of the importance of conservation at local, national and global levels
  - develop a sense of adventure and accomplishment, and support creativity, by presenting environmental challenges, providing exciting experiences and stimulating imagination
  - close the attainment gap by promoting learning to learn principles
  - increase self-confidence, improve behaviour to support in-class learning and develop better communication skills
  - encourage use by whole families of green spaces in Greater London and beyond
- The project also works with other settings in Harrow and neighbouring boroughs to
- provide accredited training for practitioners
  - identify, and support the development of, the use of green spaces e.g. school grounds, local woodlands, parks

**Main activities of your organisation:**

Programmes for young people from a range of ethnic/socio economic backgrounds. Groups include those with severe learning, and extreme social and emotional, difficulties. Sessions involve exploring and learning about a woodland setting. Pupils take part in mini beast trails, learn to handle small creatures and observe flora and fauna and learn to meet challenges cooperatively by clearing areas of forest, building natural shelters, tying knots and using basic tools.

Lessons include teaching about soils, habitats, pond life, planting and growing, crafts using natural materials and conservation.

All day extracurricular sessions are delivered for larger groups of children who spend the day in the forest setting and take part in environmental studies as above.

Family Learning programmes, including fathers and children and vulnerable families, Sessions encourage working in partnership to explore and enjoy woodland experiences e.g. shelter and big raft construction.

Training for practitioners e.g. from Early Years settings; currently at level 1, but soon to include levels 2 and 3.

**Number of staff**

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

**Property occupied by your organisation**

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
<b>Rented</b>	<b>5 years</b>

## Summary of grant request

Woodland Adventure Forest School (WAFSH) is unique in North London. It is pioneering a new approach to developing understanding of and, care for, the environment for some of the most disadvantaged young people in Harrow. A film may be viewed on YouTube @Woodland Adventure Forest School Harrow. This shows activities and gives a commentary about aims and methodology.

WAFSH began in May 2012 when a wonderful natural setting available behind All Saints' Church, Harrow Weald, was developed as an outdoor learning space. The project has been supported from the outset by Enhancing Achievement Education Strategy, Harrow Council whose focus is supporting ethnic minorities and promoting integration.

WAFSH caters for a wide range of young people from 18 months - 16 years including those who:

- Are from a variety of ethnic/socio economic backgrounds, including refugees, asylum seekers, new arrivals, Travellers, Looked After Children, Troubled Families
- Have moderate/extreme social and emotional difficulties; including young offenders
- Have severe learning difficulties
- Experience difficulty learning in the classroom, including kinaesthetic learners

WAFSH involves families by sharing children's successes with them and through Family Learning programmes, particularly for fathers, which enable parents to enjoy positive social interaction through activities. It involves families from war torn countries who have benefitted from reaching out to one another across cultural barriers. It inspires families to enjoy the outdoors and explore local green spaces.

WAFSH has huge potential to meet the needs of a variety of institutions. An increasing number of charitable organisations are asking for support e.g. Children of the Fire. However there is no capacity amongst the current staffing to meet this demand.

The WAFSH experience provides structured sessions which are bespoke for the needs of the groups attending. Children are assessed throughout the programme and in school. Impact is measured and continues to demonstrate progress for all pupils.

However the qualified Level 4 Forest School trainer is employed as tutor for only 3 days a week during term time and is supported by a small team of 3 volunteers plus an assistant who works 1.5. days a week.

WAFSH promotes good practice in conservation. In order to reduce the forest school carbon foot print young people always work outdoors. A 'Classroom in the Woods' has been created through partnership with CISCO, a business which supports charities through practical team building exercises. Older students will work here for the 'The John Muir Award' which promotes 'think global act local'. The new area will reduce the stress on the primary learning space. Most materials used are natural e.g. hazel from the coppiced trees and wood grown sustainably within the woodland is used for heat/ cooking. New habitats, e.g. a pond, have been established. Groups who attend are asked to walk to the setting where possible.

WAFSH supports the Woodland Conservation Management Team and is extending its impact to include the wider community. A project to grow food is starting involving elderly residents. Young people take their produce to local homes and the residents will be asked to visit and offer advice.

Due to the success of Woodland Adventure the intention is to expand provision and training, in and out of borough. Training is currently provided for sixth form/college students and for some Early Years practitioners. The intention is to expand training to include other Harrow settings and practitioners from Barnet, Brent and Enfield to share the good practice and encourage the use of London's green spaces including woodlands, school grounds, parks

It is therefore necessary to employ a manager to design and deliver an effective business plan which will also engender funding and ensure sustainability.

If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **Yes**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

**Working towards 'Learning Outside the Classroom'**

### **Outputs and outcomes**

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

**18 programmes for young people with severe learning difficulties involving the unique experience of exploring a woodland setting whilst offering quiet areas for independent learning. They take part in mini beast trails, handle small creatures and observe flora and fauna. They eat and sing songs around the camp fire.**

**48 sessions for young people with extreme social and emotional difficulties; including those attending pupil referral units, and young offenders. They learn to meet challenges cooperatively by clearing forest land, building natural shelters, tying knots and using basic tools. They also learn to cook over the campfire with peers..**

**9 all day environmental events for young people from a wide range of ethnic/socio economic backgrounds, including refugees, Travellers and Looked After Children, some of whom are not engaging in the classroom. They learn about soils, habitats, small creatures, flora, fauna, pond life, growing, and natural crafts.**

**9 Family Learning Programmes, some for fathers and children, include vulnerable families. Sessions inspire exploration and enjoyment of positive woodland experiences. Activities like shelter and big raft construction involve working in partnership. They are encouraged to consider other families' needs e.g. through creating assault courses for one another etc.**

**9 courses, including the provision of accredited forest school courses from level 1-3 for practitioners, and basic environmental award courses for older students (3), in Harrow. 6 level 1-3, plus follow up training, for setting up FS in identified green spaces, in 3 other London boroughs. End of project conference.**

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

**95% of young people with severe learning difficulties who have limited opportunities to go out will have experienced something entirely new. They will benefit from safely extending their personal boundaries and their families will be encouraged to know that they have the capability to grow in this way.**

**Successfully meeting woodland challenges will increase confidence amongst 94% young people with a range of social and emotional difficulties. All pupils, whatever their needs, will benefit from an improved attitude to learning and working cooperatively. This in turn will begin to close the attainment gap between them and their peers.**

**96% of those who attend WAFSH will have had fun and developed a sense of adventure. They will understand the importance of conservation and want to investigate more out of doors by taking part in green activities. Young people and their families will be inspired to visit London's green spaces.**

**95% of young people and their families, who have limited access to green areas for reasons including poor housing and difficult personal circumstances, will have had positive experiences of learning outdoors. They will know more about the natural world and caring for the environment through and acquired new skills.**

**Accredited training of practitioners and students from 12 inner and outer borough organisations will have been delivered. This will enable them to run quality programmes to benefit young people. Minimum of 6 new FS settings will be created using green spaces in North London. Networks for FS development set up.**

Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to sustain it? If not, what is your exit strategy?

**We will continue to fund raise and to look for new ways of producing income. This will include increased provision and training for existing, and additional, Harrow organisations; also accredited training and mentoring for practitioners from other**

## Who will benefit?

### About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

**550**

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

**Harrow (83%) Barnet (6%) Brent (6%) Enfield (5%)**

What age group(s) will benefit?

**0-15 16-24 25-44 45-64 65-74 75 and over**

What gender will beneficiaries be?

**All**

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

**A range of ethnic groups**

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

**1-10%**

## Funding required for the project

### What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Woodland Adventure manager and increased assistant tutor hours	58,520	58,520	58,520	175,560
Administration and supervision	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>61,520</b>	<b>61,520</b>	<b>61,520</b>	<b>184,560</b>

### What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
John Lyon Charity projected traded income	28,520	28,520	28,520	85,560
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>28,520</b>	<b>28,520</b>	<b>28,520</b>	<b>85,560</b>

### What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Woodland Adventure manager and increased assistant tutor hours	24,000	24,000	24,000	72,000
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>72,000</b>

## Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: July	Year: 2015
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	64,954
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	0
Other sources	16
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>64,970</b>

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	26,737
Governance costs	0
Cost of generating funds	2,307
Other	0
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>29,044</b>
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus:</b>	<b>35,926</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):</b>	
<b>Net Movement in Funds:</b>	

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	0
Investments	0
Net current assets	35,926
Long-term liabilities	0
<b>*Total Assets (A):</b>	<b>35,926</b>

Reserves at year end	£
Endowment funds	0
Restricted funds	16,029
Unrestricted funds	19,897
<b>*Total Reserves (B):</b>	<b>35,926</b>

\* Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.

### Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?  
0%

### Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

None



### Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	1,000	0	0
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	0	0	0

### Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
John Lyon's Charity	18,000	18,000	18,000
Rotary Club, Stanmore and Edgware	0	5,000	0
Diocese of London	1,000	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

### Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes      Full Name: **Revd. James Mercer**

Role within                      **Coordinator**  
Organisation: