



26 January 2016

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY FUND

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the allocations of two grants to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations from the Nottinghamshire Community Fund.

Information and Advice

2. In March 2013 the Policy Committee of the County Council agreed to the establishment of a Nottinghamshire Community Fund which would be held by the Nottinghamshire Community Foundation.
3. The Nottinghamshire Community Fund was established by amalgamating a number of trust funds held by the County Council. The funds had become moribund or ineffective as the original intentions or objectives within the governing documents of the funds were out of date or, over time, have become impossible to fulfil. The Charity Commission were keen to see the release of these trust funds and particularly supported their transfer to the Nottinghamshire Community Foundation.
4. The fund value at the transfer in April 2013 was £134,738 and this has produced a total income of £9,772 to 30 November 2015. During this period Nottinghamshire Community Foundation has received a Management Fee in line with the agreement for initial establishment costs and ongoing management.
5. An important element of the transfer was that any funds awarded from the Nottinghamshire Community Fund needed to be aligned with the original aims of the moribund trusts, it was therefor agreed that awards should be made to organisations that deliver against the following broad criteria.
 - Safety, including crime and disorder
 - Sustainable neighbourhoods including the environment and housing
 - Prosperity, skills and jobs
 - Lifelong learning including early school years
 - Transport
 - Health and healthy living
 - Culture, sports and arts
 - Community cohesion including issues of race and disability
 - Improving the lives of people with limited resources
 - General charitable purposes which align with the Foundations ethos of inspiring local giving

6. Members are asked to note that one of the funds transferred was the Granby Educational Foundation and a condition was applied to the transfer of this fund that the assets of this fund be “ring fenced” to support the original aims of the trust, that being to support the educational needs of children from Granby and Sutton. This arrangement is being managed by Nottinghamshire Community Foundation in liaison with Granby cum Sutton Parish Council. The fund at transfer in April 2013 was £3,130, and £600 of awards have been made to date.

Proposed awards

7. This report in paragraphs 10 -15 outlines two proposals that address a wide range of the outcomes of the fund criteria.
8. Since the fund has yielded £8,000 over the first two years it is proposed to make two awards of £4000. In line with the need to align funding with the broad criteria above the following projects are recommended.
9. Members will be asked to consider further proposals in subsequent years as the fund yields further income.

Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum (NNRF) – Young Persons Orientation Programme

10. The Orientation Programme will provide a tailor made support for newly arrived young people from asylum seeking and refugee communities. Sessions will include
 - Information on life in the UK (geography, money, customs, law, staying safe)
 - Local information and orientation to Nottingham/shire, enabling access to youth specific services and places of interest (e.g. leisure centres, youth centres, libraries and, youth membership cards where appropriate)
 - Weekly ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) lessons on a range of themes/topics
 - Information/workshops on a variety of life skills e.g. budgeting, healthy relationships, education.
 - Peer mentoring and support from existing young people
 - 1 to1 support for specific case work/advocacy/signposting from the project worker
 - Access to existing NNRF youth activities and workshops (e.g. bicycle maintenance, road safety, cooking skills, sports activities, trips, arts award etc)
11. The project will deliver the following outcomes for the participants:
 - increased knowledge of their local community and life in the UK
 - increased participation and integration within their local communities
 - improved language skills
 - reduced social isolation leading to improved emotional well-being and confidence
 - Young people from both refugee and asylum seeking communities, and the host community will undertake supported training to become Peer Mentors building their own skills and confidence and increasing understanding.
 - NNRF will have increased capacity to support newly arrived and vulnerable young people

“Take Five at School” Ambassador Programme – Each Amazing Breath Community Interest Company

12. "Take Five" is a school based training programme that teaches the practice of simple breathing techniques. The attention to the breath increases self-awareness, self-belief, and self-confidence. A pilot programme has been delivered in 4 primary schools in Worksop and has shown positive effects on children's behaviour, attitude and relationships.
13. The pilot programme focussed on training teachers & teaching assistants to deliver Take Five sessions across the schools and a total of 56 are now able to lead sessions with children. The proposal is that 48 pupils across the schools are trained as Take Five Ambassadors. The training programme over six weeks will equip the young people with the ability to:
- Deliver and lead sessions for other pupils
 - How to hold space – To support others through whatever they are experiencing
 - Match practices to needs
 - Use of appropriate language in delivery
 - Lead a practice in pairs and groups
 - Develop of 4-6 practices for tailored use in their school
14. The success of the programme with teaching staff and the evaluation of student performance has led a wide range of partners including NCC Education Improvement Services to the point where roll-out into other schools in the County is planned for 2016/17.

Other Options Considered

15. An open application and assessment process similar to those used for the NCC main Grant Programme and the Youth Innovation Fund was considered. Whilst this would have opened up opportunities to consider other projects the costs associated with managing this process balanced against the value of the fund deemed this to be disproportionate and we also have in place a successful Councillors Divisional Fund that supports small grants. Therefore the approach taken was to support one project with an immediate known need and to build on an existing proposal.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. The two awards recommended are aligned to the criteria established for the fund and will help meet an immediate need, and support the development of an innovative approach to improving outcomes for young people in schools.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

18. Members are asked to:

Approve two £4,000 awards from the Nottinghamshire Community Fund for:

- “Young Persons Orientation Programme” - Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum (NNRF)
- “Take Five at School” Ambassador Programme – Each Amazing Breath Community Interest Company

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Constitutional Comments (LM 4/1/16)

The recommendations within the report fall within the terms of reference of the Grant Aid Sub Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 4/1/16)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- ‘None’

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- ‘All’

