

5th November 2013**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR,
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES****HOLOCAUST CENTRE PROJECT 'IN OUR HANDS'****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of progress of the successful 'In Our Hands' hate crime pilot project and to seek approval for funding of £15,000 from the Community Safety budget in 2013/14 to extend the pilot to Eastwood South (Broxtowe).

Information and Advice**'In Our Hands' Project background**

2. The 'In Our Hands' project (previously known as 'I belong you belong') is an innovative and ground breaking initiative which aims to tackle areas with high levels of hate crime and low levels of community engagement by working with schools and the wider community to change attitudes and behaviours. The Project fits well with the Government's national Hate Crime Plan, the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan and also the Safer Nottinghamshire Board Hate Crime Steering Group's Delivery Plan.
3. This is a joint initiative of the County Council's Achievement and Equality Service, Safer and Engaged Communities, Bassetlaw and Mansfield District Councils, Mansfield and Bassetlaw CVSs, Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership, Nottinghamshire Police, the Holocaust Centre. It has the support and financial backing of two national charities: the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) and the Pears Foundation.

Project Details

4. The first two areas selected for a project pilot were the Ravensdale estate in Mansfield followed by the Partnership Plus areas of Worksop. This was based on their ranking as priority areas by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and in particular the relatively high levels of hate crime and racially motivated crime recorded by Nottinghamshire Police.
5. Specific examples of issues reported in the neighbourhood included:

- Primary school children's homework being returned to school annotated with swastikas
 - Parents refusing consent for their children to visit a mosque
 - Parents petitioning against a schools initiative to run a Polish day in the school, particularly their attempt to let the children try some Polish food.
6. The innovative nature of the Project has been the interaction with parents by encouraging them to visit The Holocaust Centre so they could be involved in their children's learning. The Centre has delivered 'In Our Hands' workshops to parents whilst their children were undertaking 'The Journey' education programme. The programme for parents is designed to raise awareness of the role individual people played in the Holocaust and for them to consider what their individual role might be in today's communities.
7. At the end of the learning experience for both children and parents there is an opportunity to share what they have learned during the day and to discuss together what they will do once they get back home to their community. The Centre also delivers a post visit workshop in the schools following the visit.

Project Results

8. The Project aims to shift people's (children, young people and adults from across the community) attitude to people who they perceive as different to themselves. An initial assessment of the concept of engaging the parents in parallel learning to their children's indicates that this has been very successful. In addition, the project aims to galvanise parents and community members to:
- Increase parental involvement and engagement in their children's learning and within schools and children's centres
 - Consider their role as individuals within their community.
 - Take action themselves to address issues of hatred and fear of difference within their community.
9. A comprehensive evaluation of the pilot project is currently being undertaken by ICARUS, an independent research body. Its initial findings indicate that the project is having significant impacts on the values and perceptions of primary age children and a final evaluation will be available in summer 2014.

Selection of third pilot area

10. Eastwood South is a Partnership Plus area which has consistently shown high levels of hate crime and anti-social behaviour. The County Strategic Assessment places it as one of the highest ranked areas in South Nottinghamshire. The Broxtowe Partnership Board has agreed to focus resources at Eastwood South as one of its priority areas based on the outcomes of the Public Health Rapid Needs Assessment. This assessment selects indicators from Community Safety data, NHS emergency admissions and the Public Health Outcomes Framework. These indicate Eastwood South to have issues concerning domestic violence, child deprivation, alcohol abuse and violence in Broxtowe. In the County, Eastwood South is currently experiencing a rise in all crime, and specifically youth crime. It

is considered to be an appropriate area of focus for the third pilot area for the 'In our Hands' project. If this funding is approved the work could start in February 2014.

National and International Interest

11. There is considerable interest at a national and international level in this Project. Nationally the Director for Decentralism and Big Society at the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) has visited the Holocaust Centre to discuss the Project with a view to it becoming a national pilot once the evaluation is finalised.

Partnership Funding

12. In Mansfield and Bassetlaw there have been contributions in both funds and staff resources from the Partnership Plus areas. Major financial contributions to the work have been received from the Pears Foundation and the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR). The County Council's contribution and involvement is seen as critical to the success of these applications.

Other Options Considered

13. Not providing funding of £15,000 would mean that a third area in the county would not benefit from the In Our Hands approach as outlined in the report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The initial monitoring and evaluations of the project in the original two areas has been very positive and provides a rationale for extending the approach to a third area in the county.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members allocate funding of £15,000 from the 2013/14 Community Safety Budget to extend the successful 'In Our Hands' project approach to Eastwood South.

**Martin Done, Service Director Communications and Marketing
Policy, Planning and Corporate Services**

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Constitutional Comments ([LM 16/10/13])

16. The Community Safety Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution for community safety matters and may approve the recommendations in the report in order to extend the pilot scheme to Eastwood South.

Financial Comments ([SEM 17/10/13])

17. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Eastwood South