

29 May 2012**Agenda Item:10****REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, SAFER AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES,
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES****“I BELONG YOU BELONG” HOLOCAUST CENTRE PROJECT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To request approval for allocating £15,000 from the Community Safety budget in 2012/13 to extend a successful hate crime pilot project to Worksop North (Bassetlaw).

Information and Advice**‘I Belong You Belong – Bringing Diversity Home to Mansfield’ Project background**

2. The Project 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 supports the Safer Nottinghamshire Board Hate Crime Delivery Plan and fits well with the Government’s new Hate Crime Plan, which highlights the importance of:

“Challenging the behaviours and attitudes that foster hatred and encouraging early intervention to reduce the risk of incidents escalating”
(Challenge It, Report It, Stop It: The Government’s Plan to Tackle Hate Crime 2012)

3. This is a joint initiative of the County Council’s Achievement and Equality Service and Community Safety Team, Mansfield District Council, Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership, Nottinghamshire Police, the Holocaust Centre, the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) and the Pears Foundation.
4. The Committee is asked to note that the proposals were brought before the Grant Aid Member Reference Group on 30th April 2012 in order to ensure that Members have an overall picture of the funding that is allocated to the voluntary sector for community safety initiatives funded by Nottinghamshire County Council. Members endorsed the proposed way forward.

Project Details

5. The first area selected for a Project pilot was the Ravensdale estate in Mansfield based on its ranking as a Partnership Plus area by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and in particular the relatively high levels of hate crime and racially motivated crime recorded by Nottinghamshire Police.
6. 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.
7. The Project worked with 6 primary schools and one secondary school (The Brunts). All 6 primary schools visited The Holocaust Centre with year 5/6 (10-11 year olds). These trips involved about 50 children visiting 'The Journey'. On the same visit about 25 parents were also brought to the Holocaust Centre and provided with a parallel learning experience. The Centre also delivered a post-visit workshop in the schools following the visit.
8. The innovative nature of the Project has been the interaction with parents in each of the 6 primary schools by encouraging them to visit The Holocaust Centre so they could be involved in their children's learning. The Centre 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.
9. 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.

Project Results

10. 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 the school
 - Consider their role as individuals within their community.
 - Take action themselves to address issues of hatred and fear of difference within their community.

11. Below are a few quotes from parents involved in term one of the project:

'The visit has certainly been food for thought. Seeing the same exhibitions as my grand-daughter will enable us to have lots of discussions. Thank you for a very thought provoking experience'

Parent Sutton Road Primary 1st November 2011

'Very helpful and informative. Your project must carry on for future generations'

parent High Oakham Primary. 10th November 2011

'As well as being able to discuss the issues raised with my son, the day has also been valuable in further informing my understanding of the Holocaust'

parent Abbey Primary school 2nd December 2011

'Very impressive day – much much more than I expected'

parent Abbey Primary school, 2nd December 2011

'Extremely helpful and enlightening. Giving the next generation the tools with which to make decisions in life – empathising with others is of the utmost importance'

Grandmother, Sutton Road Primary, 2nd November 2011

'Very moving and thought provoking with important issues for us in the UK today'

parent Sutton Road Primary, 2nd November 2011

'...would definitely recommend this sad but equally important experience. Learnt a lot'

parent 2nd November 2011 Sutton Road Primary

12. Detailed discussions are underway with Nottingham Trent University to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot Project and to make recommendations as to the proposed rollout to Worksop North. As with the original Mansfield pilot, this is a Partnership Plus Area and experiences high levels of hate crime as identified by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board's Strategic Assessment.

National and International Interest

13. 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.
14. Internationally a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between The Brunts School, The Holocaust Centre, The Shoah Foundation and the Institute of Education (University of London) in relation to The Brunts

School being the UK pilot for The Shoah Foundation's new website 'I Witness'.

Partnership Funding

15. Bassetlaw District Council is planning to contribute to the project from its 2011/12 Partnership Plus funding with the possibility of more funds being drawn from its 2012/13 allocation. Major contributions to the work are also being developed 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

16. There is no alternative provider for this specific project. In terms of the focus of the project, other Partnership Plus Areas were considered but did not all have the potential level of partnership support that will be required to make the initiative a success.

Reason/s for Recommendations

17. The initial pilot is seen as being highly successful, having a significant impact on the young people from the participating schools as well as on the parents and relatives who were also involved. The extension of the work to a different area, with a focus on measuring the community benefits of the approach, is exciting and offers a unique opportunity for the County Council to be fully engaged with a ground breaking approach.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. 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

19. It is recommended that the Committee approves the allocation of £15,000 from the 2012/13 Community Safety budget to extend the successful project approach in Ravensdale to Worksop North in Bassetlaw.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments ((Linda McCarthy 1.5.2012)

The Community Safety Committee has delegated responsibility in relation to community safety. Therefore, the recommendations in the report fall within the remit of the Committee.

Financial Comments ([DD 8/05/12])

Adequate budget provision exists within the Safer Communities budget for 2012 -13 to fund the contribution.

Background Papers

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.

DVD of the “I Belong You Belong” Pilot Project

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Worksop North