



23 April 2013

Agenda Item: 4

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR,
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

“IN OUR HANDS” HOLOCAUST CENTRE PROJECT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress with the ‘In Our Hands’ (previously known as ‘I Belong You Belong’) Holocaust Centre Project in Ravensdale and Worksop.

Information and Advice

‘In Our Hands’ 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 Hate Crime Plan.
3. This is a joint initiative of the County Council, Bassetlaw and Mansfield District Councils, Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership, Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood Community Safety Partnership, Mansfield and Bassetlaw Councils for Voluntary Service, Nottinghamshire Police, the Holocaust Centre, the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) and the Pears Foundation.
4. The work undertaken at the Holocaust Centre is at the heart of the Project and Helen Whitney, Chief Executive Officer at the Centre, has played a vital role in bringing the partners together and driving the Project forward.
5. The Project was first established in Ravensdale, Mansfield, and the Committee approved the allocation of £15,000 from the 2012/13 Community Safety budget to extend the project to Worksop North in Bassetlaw on 29 April 2012.
6. The Committee is asked to note that this funding allocation was endorsed by the Grant Aid Member Reference Group on 30 April 2012.

Project Details

7. The first areas selected as Project pilots are Ravensdale in Mansfield and Worksop North in Bassetlaw. This is based on their rankings by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board as Partnership Plus Areas (15 wards across the county prioritised due to higher than average crime levels) and in particular the relatively high levels of hate crime and racially motivated crime recorded by Nottinghamshire Police.
8. The Project has worked with primary schools, children's centres and secondary schools in both areas. Children and parents have visited the Holocaust Centre with the children visiting 'The Journey' whilst parents have been provided with a parallel learning experience. The Centre has also delivered post-visit workshops in the schools following the visit.
9. The innovative nature of the Project has been the interaction with parents in each of the schools and in the children's centres and 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.
10. 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

11. The Project aims to shift people's attitudes to those in their community who they perceive as being different to themselves. This happens through the initial involvement of parents in learning at the Holocaust Centre and goes on to galvanise community members to consider their role as individuals and to take action themselves to address issues of hatred and fear of difference within their community.
12. A comprehensive evaluation of the two pilot Project areas is currently being undertaken and this will be used to make recommendations as to the proposed rollout of the Project across further Partnership Plus areas. An initial assessment of the concept of engaging the parents in parallel learning to their children's indicates that this has been very successful.
13. The centrepiece of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day at the Holocaust Centre in January was the building of a bridge made up of pledges by children from the schools involved in the Ravensdale pilot. The day was attended by the Chairman of the County Council, Carol Pepper and local MP and County Councillor Mark Spencer.

National and International Interest

14. There remains considerable interest at a national and international level in this Project. The Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) is looking to the Project becoming a national pilot.
15. 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'.
16. The Project has also been recognised by the High Sheriffs' Association of England and Wales National Crimebeat Awards in February 2013 and commended for 'an outstanding contribution to helping reduce crime and creating a safer community'.

Partnership Funding

17. Bassetlaw and Mansfield District Councils have contributed to the project from Partnership Plus funding with the possibility of more funds being drawn from the 2012/13 allocation. Major 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

18. 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

19. 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 evaluation of the work will focus on measuring the community benefits of the approach and offers a unique opportunity for the County Council to be fully engaged with a ground breaking approach.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. 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

- 1) It is recommended that the Committee recognise the success to date of the Project and continue to support its development and possible extension to other Partnership Plus areas.

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Constitutional Comments

21. 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.

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

Ravensdale

Worksop North