

16th December 2019

Agenda Item: 16

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTORS FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING &
SKILLS AND YOUTH, FAMILIES & SOCIAL WORK**

**ATTENDANCE AT THE BETTER EDUCATIONAL TRAINING & TEACHING
(BETT) AWARDS ON 22 JANUARY 2020 AND APPROVAL TO HOST A LOCAL
EVENT**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval to fund the attendance, travel and overnight accommodation for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee to attend the BETT (Better Educational Training and Teaching) Awards Ceremony in London on 22nd January 2020 as a result of the Multi Modal Literacy Project being shortlisted as a 2020 finalist (<http://bettawards.com/shortlist2020>) and for any related media communication.
2. The report also seeks approval to host an after school Multi Modal celebration event in early January, inviting all past children, young people, foster carers and teachers who have participated in the project since 2011 and for any related media communication.

Information

3. The Bett Awards are a celebration of the inspiring creativity and innovation that can be found throughout technology for education. The awards aim to showcase the world's leading education technology solutions and developments which improve educational outcomes for children and young people. The winners are seen to have excelled in ICT provision and support for nurseries, schools, colleges and special schools alike with a clear focus on what works in the classroom.
4. Over the past nine years, the Virtual School has funded the Multi Modal Literacy Project which to date has worked with primary aged children, their teachers and foster carers in a partnership that has improved children's literacy. Since 2011, 150 Nottinghamshire looked after children have engaged with the project with a similar number of other local authorities buying places for their looked after children. Evaluation of the project each year demonstrates positive impact on reading and writing skills with teachers reporting over 80% of the participants showing improved literacy outcomes and/or confidence in literacy skills. All the participants demonstrate improvements in reading skills and reading for pleasure. The project uses IT and literacy software packages to develop the speaking and listening skills of children, ultimately impacting on their reading and writing. This project is

commissioned by the Virtual School and is led by Dr Petula Bhojwani and Craig Wilkie, independent educational researchers, who have worked as associate advisers for the Council on this IT and literacy project.

5. This project has been subjected to rigorous best practice research and is published in key professional journals: Power-up Literacy: technology and multimodality within the extended classroom, UKLA (2018 and 2019), Wilkie, C. (2018) Using RIX Wikis to Close the Literacy Gap for Looked After Children in the Virtual School online <https://rixresearchandmedia.org/close-literacy-gap/> and presented at a United Kingdom Literacy Association International Conference.
6. The project has developed over the years and the most recent cohort of children, foster carers and teachers have had access to the art work of the Harley Gallery. A display of our children's work is currently on display at the Harley Gallery along with the Portland Miniatures until 31st December 2019 (<https://www.harleygallery.co.uk/exhibition/the-literacy-project/>).
7. This project has been successful in being shortlisted as a BETT 2020 finalist in the 'Service and Support' award which seeks to identify the most successful project in supporting pupils to improve their outcomes and engage in learning.
8. This report seeks approval to fund the travel, accommodation and attendance at the BETT Awards ceremony for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee to attend the BETT event. Officer approval has already been secured for the Assistant Head of the Virtual School, and an officer representative from Youth, Families and Social Work to attend this event. The total cost of all travel and accommodation for officers and the Chairman is likely to be approximately £2,500.
9. In addition, the report seeks approval to facilitate and fund a Multi Modal celebration event at County Hall, prior to 22nd January, inviting all children and now young people, their foster carers and teachers to mark the shortlisting success. This event will be an opportunity to acknowledge the power of strong partnership working between foster carers, schools and children as well as celebrating the success of the multi modal IT project in making a difference in the lives of many children.

Other Options Considered

10. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. This national event provides an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the literacy achievements of our children.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability

and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. The funding for transport, accommodation and attendance at the event will cost approximately £2,500. The cost of hosting the celebration event will be up to £2,000 which will be catering and preparation of the event e.g. displays, presentations. The total cost is approximately £4,500 and this will be contained within the Virtual School LA budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) approves the travel, accommodation and transport costs for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee to attend the Better Educational Training and Teaching (BETT) Awards ceremony in London on 22nd January 2020 as a result of the Multi Modal Literacy Project being shortlisted as a finalist and any appropriate communications arising from the event.
- 2) approves the delivery of a County celebration event at County Hall for all children, foster carers and teachers who have participated in the IT Multi Modal Project since 2011 and any appropriate communications arising from the event.

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Youth, Families and Social Work

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Constitutional Comments (KK 06/12/19)

14. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 05/12/19)

15. The funding for transport, accommodation and attendance at the BETT Award ceremony event will cost approximately £2,500. The cost of hosting the celebration event will be up to £2,000 which will be catering and preparation of the event e.g. displays, presentations.

The total cost is approximately £4,500 and this will be contained within the Virtual School LA budget of £278,000.

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.

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