

Area Committee Well-Being Fund – Project Proposal for Area Committee commissioning

Sections should be expanded as required and any other key information provided as an attachment.

Project Name: Learning Works

Project Delivery – How the project will be delivered (inc how any partners are involved in the project, what each will contribute, project timescale etc):

Learning Works seeks to build the capacity of local people to participate in economic activity and local regeneration. The Project is particularly focussed on non-economically active adults who have been difficult to reach through traditional social inclusion methods' this Project builds a support mechanism to enhance their capacity and quality of life. The ultimate purpose is 'to create a culture where entrepreneurship, training and jobs become key to the local ethos and culture' and thus unlock 'the ability of the community to share in and contribute to economic and social renewal.

The Family Learning Workers (FLW) are based in schools and work with the partners delivering Extended Services to the Beeston cluster. Currently Learning Partnerships employ a Co-ordinator to deliver and build up the Extended Services programme to this cluster.

The wider work of the charity engages in South Leeds, Joseph Priestly College, local voluntary sector groups, the Learning and skills Council, Best Ltd, Jobs and Skills from Leeds City Council and Department for Work and Pensions. All the partners involved provide collectively outreach support, well-being activities and learning through pre-vocational courses, basic skills and job search facilities. The FLW's are the key to engaging parents who need this support.

The project is now in its third year. It has been funded through a mixture of funding streams: ERDF, NRF, EIC Action Zones, the partner schools and Learning Partnerships. The current funding ends in March 2008. Learning Partnerships has submitted a Big Lottery bid for three years funding from September 2008. This bid has been approved in principle and we are currently preparing the second stage of the application. The schools are very keen to continue the work with parents and have agreed to contribute £20,000 of interim funding which Learning Partnerships will match with a further £20,000. This application seeks an additional £20,000 which will allow the project to continue until the Big Lottery application is completed. See full budget details on pg3

We are convinced that the cycle of deprivation and exclusion will only be overcome when excluded parents break out of it – 'socially excluded parents do not bring up included children.' Programmes targeted at socially excluded children cannot succeed in isolation. If no support is being given in a complementary fashion to their parents, such programmes seem destined to fail. Learning Partnerships maintain that programmes that build up the confidence, capacity and self esteem of socially and economically excluded parents enabling them to play a fuller part in the communities in which they live are just as essential as efforts to raise the aspirations and achievements of disadvantaged children and young people themselves.

Project Summary (including a brief description of the main activities and why this project is needed and its links to key priorities/actions particularly within the Area Committee's Area Delivery Plan):

Learning Works is a team of six Family Learning Workers (FLWs) based in Seven primary schools (one FLW covers two schools) in the Beeston Hill and Holbeck cluster schools. The FLWs target and engage the socially excluded parents of children who attend their schools. They set up support networks for the parents and sometimes for other adult members of the local community. The FLWs involve parents in adult learning activities that build capacity and at the same time increase confidence and self esteem. In consultation with parents, they develop programmes designed to meet the particular needs of their client group. The programmes often include workshops on parenting, literacy, numeracy, money matters financial inclusion, ICT and healthy living.

The Project emphasises the importance of personal empowerment and uses the Pacific Institute STEPS (Steps to Economic and Personal Success) programme. This encourages participants to set goals, make choices and achieve more, thus building the capacity of individuals and communities.

FLWs also make arrangement for parents and other adults in their communities to make greater use of ICT facilities and to improve their computer skills. This will open up new opportunities for participants to return to learning and employment.

As soon as parents have the necessary skills and confidence, they are encouraged to act as tutors of their own children. Parents are also able to participate in family 'fun' activities and family learning events organised by the FLWs.

Finally, as part of their role, FLWs are expected to organise, as required, vocational training and job skills workshops, signpost parents to job search agencies and support jobs and learning markets.

Outcomes (a summary the main expected outcomes, outputs and benefits to participants the project will achieve):

The key outcomes for the Project are:

- to maintain 6 jobs in the target area
- to develop project staff from within the South Leeds LDEP area
- to provide a range of opportunities to overcome fundamental barriers to social inclusion for a group of parents of children attending 7 local primary schools
- to provide a range of opportunities which uncover and develop the expertise and strengths within a group of socially excluded parents; to help these parents to develop and contribute to community cohesion and economic growth
- to maintain the existing parents forum
- under the extended schools banner, to facilitate the use of ICT teaching resources within the targeted schools by economically and socially excluded parents and members of the wider community so that they can develop their own ICT skills
- to build the confidence and develop the capacity of parents to act as tutors of their own children

- to use the Pacific Institute's STEPS programme, which introduces personal empowerment and leads to change in people's lives as they set goals, make choices and achieve more, to build the capacity of these communities
- to organise family activity events within the local community which use fun to encourage parents to take responsibility for their children's actions
- to signpost economically and socially excluded parents to opportunities for basic skills training, accredited training and job search agencies
- to use Learning Partnerships "money matters" financial literacy programme

Project Cost (an indication of how much the project will cost, how much funding or in kind contributions is sought from what sources with an idea of when you will know the funding is confirmed. What funding is already secured. Breakdown between capital and revenue):

Annual salary Family Learning Worker	£22,148
Funding required to extend their work to September 2008 i.e. from March 2008 to September 2008	
6 FLW's Annual Salary x 5/12	£55,370
FLW Expenses	£1,200
Resources	£3,800
Total Cost	£60,370

This request is for one-third of the total cost:

Area Management Board contribution	£20,000
Host Schools	£20,000
Learning Partnerships	£20,370
Total Cost	£60,370

Which geographic area will benefit (Inner South well being budget is split on a ward by ward basis, please indicate how the project will benefit each ward)

The funding will contribute to extend the existing Inner-South Family Learning project. Learning Partnerships currently employs 6 Family Learning Workers who are based in Hunslet Moor, St Francis of Assisi, Beeston Hill St Lukes, Ingram Road, New Bewerley, Cross Flatts Park and Greenmount primary schools.

Other key information not covered by the above:

In the past some similar projects have appointed staff to dual roles - to support vulnerable children in school and to support their parents. Such dual roles almost inevitably lead to tensions. Heads and teachers tend to see the primary role of the project workers as supporting pupils in school with helping and supporting parents slipping into the background. This project redresses the balance the funding is to support parents entirely.

In most schools there is a 'core' of parents who are highly committed to a relatively wide range of the activities connected with this Project and a larger group who participate occasionally.

The FLWs are very much aware that they must continue to support and meet the needs of their 'core' groups so that these parents, who are moving forward at varying paces, have opportunities to achieve their full potential. At the same time the FLWs are also conscious of the need to open out activities to bigger groups involving more parents. It is important that the benefits of the Project are not restricted to 'core' groups of parents with others in similar circumstances who might wish to participate being left out. This programme is all about supporting and moving parents on.