

## GRANT APPLICATION 2018/19 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

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|------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| <b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b> | To ensure that children and young people receive a great start in life<br>To protect those who are vulnerable from issues that may create a risk<br>To help disadvantaged children and young people who are at risk of not achieving their potential to close the gap with their peers and make a positive transition into adulthood |                  |
| <b>Organisation</b>                | <b>NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION</b>  | ref<br>277/E/CTY |
| <b>Address</b>                     | 356 Holloway Road, N7  |                  |

### Corporate policy, aims and objectives

The Corporate Plan, 2015-20, and the Children and Young People's Plan, 2016-20, reflect a focus on improving outcomes for Barnet's younger population, creating the conditions for children and young people to be kept safe, active and healthy and to develop skills and acquire knowledge to achieve their full potential and lead successful adult lives. The council is committed to continuing to raise educational standards and to close the achievement gap between pupils and their peers. Local communities and voluntary groups can play a part in promoting and complementing the school curriculum, particularly in supporting children from socially excluded and educationally deprived groups and pupils who are under-achieving.

Supplementary schools are largely parent and community-led educational programmes which offer a personalised and informal learning environment that complements mainstream education. They help to address some of the needs that the education system struggles to meet as its population becomes more diverse, building confidence, well-being and other characteristics important to a child's education, not only amongst migrant and minority ethnic communities but increasingly amongst socioeconomically disadvantaged pupils generally.

### Activities / proposal

The National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education (NRCSE) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee formed in 2012 to raise standards of teaching, learning and management in community-led supplementary schools and the wider supplementary education sector across England, a largely unregulated area of delivery, embracing national curriculum and/or mother tongue tuition, for which it offers:

- \* the only nationally-recognized quality assurance scheme, targeted specifically at providers of out-of-school education;
- \* 'good management' training, embracing issues such as safeguarding;
- \* accredited training in effective teaching skills, including teaching a language and working with students with special educational needs;
- \* 'INSET' days, covering issues such as performance assessment;
- \* quarterly networking events;
- \* governance support on management committee responsibilities; premises management and rental; networking with mainstream schools and other educational establishments; handling of data and complaints; and fundraising.

NRCSE works collaboratively with partner agencies, local authorities and central government (the Department for Education, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Home Office) to promote best practice; develop excellence; and assess risk within the sector and campaigns on behalf of supplementary schools to raise their profile.

The delivery of services is primarily focused on areas where work with supplementary schools is supported and funded. In London, the charity works in eight boroughs including Barnet, Brent, Camden, Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster. Nationally, it currently operates more as a web-based charity, funding for face-to-face work mainly in the north-west of England and Yorkshire, including in partnership with local authority/supplementary school networks, having come to an end. Resources have been particularly targeted over the last twelve months at rolling out a three-day good management course as a robust entry point to quality assurance and minimum safeguarding standards.

This application seeks help to re-establish a supplementary school forum for Barnet at a time when it is becoming more important for organizations to work in partnership and where the number of unregulated organizations offering out-of-school education is increasing.

NRCSE's existing work in Barnet is restricted by the terms of its funding to supplementary schools offering core curriculum subjects, of which there are currently fifteen. Excluded are at least as many other supplementary schools that are mainly faith-based, including several Islamic schools and others belonging to other minority ethnic communities, offering mother tongue teaching and other cultural activities. A termly meeting for supplementary schools in Barnet was established, with NRCSE's help, in 2010, but a lack of leadership and funding led to its demise, leaving a void in terms of the unification of quality and safeguarding standards.

The creation of a new forum, to meet on a termly basis under NRCSE's management with the support of a local steering committee, will enable the charity to extend its work to all local providers of out-of-school education, including quality development and good management training, but also embracing the key issue of the safeguarding of children in their care from the risks of radicalization and extremism. The proposal acknowledges that supplementary schools, especially those that are faith-based, double up as hubs where parents and families meet in culturally familiar environments, not only helping break the isolation that some families face but also developing awareness of issues such as radicalization, gang membership and crime.

The Education & Skills Service endorses the concept of supplementary education as a way forward for schools and teachers facing the multiple pressures associated with increased diversity, and with competing demands within the education system. Supplementary schools are, by and large, parent-led initiatives which respond directly to parents' aspirations and are effective in engaging with newly arrived migrant families. The opportunity that they provide of building stronger relationships with students' parents and families is regarded as a key factor, not only in raising students' attainment and academic performance but also helping deepen mainstream schools' roots in the community. Collaboration gives greater control over alignment with the mainstream curriculum; teaching standards; and safeguarding.

NRCSE has a strong record of raising standards in the supplementary school sector through training linked to a quality framework for supplementary schools, now known as the NRCSE 'quality mark'. In Barnet, this has served to underpin more robust networking with mainstream schools. The creation of a new supplementary school forum is endorsed, especially in the context of ensuring adequate and consistent standards of safeguarding all children and young people in the absence of any regulation of supplementary schools by the Department for Education, especially from the risks of radicalization and extremism, and building resilience to extreme ideologies in line with the government's 'Prevent' strategy.

Many of the those mainly faith-based supplementary schools in Barnet that do not at present qualify for support from NRCSE have signified their commitment to join the forum, not least because of how it will afford them access to its services, training and support. All forum members will be entitled to a round of good management training if a grant is awarded.

## Cost and financial need

In 2016/17, the latest year for which audited accounts are available, NRCSE incurred expenditure of £173,707 on direct service delivery, of which £141,663 were staffing-related costs. The charity is largely reliant on grant aid, which in that year included funding by three charitable trusts, the John Lyon's Charity supporting its work in London and two others, including the British & Foreign School Society, facilitating much of its work outside the capital, grants that were not renewed in 2017/18. The balance of income is made up of selected charges for teacher training in supplementary schools and commissions by supplementary school networks or local authorities for delivery of management training courses. Net current assets at 31/8/2017 were £88,642, of which £10,211 were restricted funds, leaving an uncommitted balance £78,437 (44% of estimated core expenditure this year).

The two discontinued charitable grants have been replaced by a fixed-term grant from the European Union for delivery of 'family learning' amongst migrant communities.

NRCSE is also the recipient on behalf of non-charitably registered young people's foundations in outer London of funding by the John Lyon's Charity, which, by agreement, it passes on.

The cost of setting up and running the new supplementary school forum in Barnet over the next twelve months is shown as £9,992, equal to the grant request. This includes co-ordination of the forum on two days a month by the charity's quality development advice team (£2,592) and two rounds of good management training (£2,700). The balance of expenditure includes premises costs, administration and management overheads.

Brent and Camden London Borough Councils have both recently funded NRSCE to extend its work to faith-specific providers in their area.

Although the forum is expected to be self-sustaining in terms of ongoing membership, NRCSE's ability to continue to offer its range of services to faith-based supplementary schools that do not teach core curriculum subjects will depend on the outcome of bids for other funding.

## Grant recommendation, type and conditions

**£9,992** (from Edward Harvist Charity)

Start-up grant

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One-off grant

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### Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to (a) agreement of an implementation plan, to include targets and milestones for monitoring purposes; (b) collaboration with the Education & Skills Service's safeguarding team; (c) the team's membership of the forum; (d) clarification of the sustainability strategy; and (e) the receipt of quarterly progress reports and an undertaking to provide an evaluation of the outcomes achieved after twelve months.

## Target grant outcomes

(a) To ensure the safeguarding of children and young people attending supplementary schools throughout the borough and (b) to strengthen the governance and quality of provision, especially amongst faith-based supplementary schools, in pursuit of reducing the gap in educational achievement between underperforming children from refugee and migrant communities and their peers.

**Date:** May 2018