

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**11<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**

**DERBYSHIRE ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE**

**Participation in the EU Erasmus+ Programme: Improving the Effectiveness of Adult Education for Disadvantaged Groups (IMPADA)**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek Cabinet Member approval for the proposed involvement of Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service in the EU Erasmus+ Programme: Improving the Effectiveness of Adult Education for Disadvantaged Groups (IMPADA).

**2. Information and Analysis**

In November 2014, Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES) was approached by the Hellenic Association for the promotion of Research & Development methodologies (PROMEA) to be part of a trans-national bid to the Erasmus<sup>1</sup>+ Programme. This programme was created in 2014 and lasts until 2020 and is a 14.7 billion euro catch-all framework for education, training, youth and sport. It combines all the EU's previous schemes for education, training, youth and sport, including the Lifelong Learning Programmes.

Derbyshire County Council is to be the lead applicant and accountable body, as a UK-based partner needs to undertake this role. DACES has already participated in a successful consortium, led by PROMEA, between 2012 and 2014 as part of the EACEA<sup>2</sup> programme. DACES provided that project with in-kind support towards staffing and venues, increasing the bid's impact in terms of outreach, impact, and expanding the target groups.

The consortium has a shared mission around the promotion of the "knowledge society", the value of learning for the accumulation of knowledge (as opposed to learning for a qualification or other purpose) and has extensive experience in European Union-funded projects. There are five partners involved in the project:

- Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES), UK
- Hellenic Society for the Promotion of Research and Development Methodologies (PROMEA), Greece
- Estonian Non-Formal Adult Education Association, Estonia
- Università Popolare – Impere Sociale, Italy
- Instytut Badan Edukacyjnych (IBE), Poland

The IMPADA project aims to achieve to improve the systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of adult education provision on disadvantaged learners, with a view to reducing disparities in and enhance access to adult learning. This will seek to benefit

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<sup>1</sup> European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students

<sup>2</sup> Education, Audio-Visual and Culture Executive Agency

those targeted learners who experience social and economic barriers to their opportunity to learn.

To this end, the IMPADA strategic partnership comprises key European players from the world of adult learning as well as the world of educational research. The combined expertise of the partners will deliver a common assessment framework and tools that will allow further education and skills providers to systemically monitor and evaluate their effectiveness on adults from disadvantaged groups.

The IMPADA results will help adult learning providers trans-nationally to supporting disadvantaged learners through:

- understanding influencing factors,
- design and implement sustainable practices to improve their effectiveness;
- reduce the achievement gap: and
- raise aspirations.

An application has been submitted to the programme (on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015) after initial discussions with the Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Assistant Director (Schools and Learning) and the Director of Legal Services. The outcome of the application is anticipated at the end of August 2015.

In the event of the application being successful, the service is seeking Cabinet Member approval to proceed. It is anticipated that the project will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 and conclude by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

The project application is seeking a total sum of €300,000 for the project. If successful, DACES will be allocated €79,378 with a commitment from us to provide €19,394 to the project (this will be by way of staff time, use of buildings, equipment and resources). The application does not require DACES to make an actual financial contribution.

The project is due to start on 1st November 2015 and will conclude by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Each partner organisation has had to complete a mandate form to enable the lead partner to claim the funding from on their behalf.

The partners' allocations with the project are separate and correspond to their individual contributions (as outlined in the project plan with the application form). Therefore, in the event of a partner not fulfilling their obligations, it would not have a negative impact on the budget for the rest of the partners. DACES, as lead partner, will be closely monitoring the project progress, so as to avoid such situations and resolve them if necessary.

### **4. Legal Considerations**

Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES) is a direct delivery arm of the Local Authority within the Children and Younger Adults Directorate of the County Council. DACES will act on behalf of all partners involved in the project and it has a proven track record of managing EU projects. DACES will obtain the funding on behalf of the partners, and distribute the funding and manage the project. The Director of Legal Services has signed the appropriate mandate and legal entity confirmation form which are an essential part of complying with the application grant conditions and will

ensure appropriate due diligence has been undertaken and appropriate governance arrangements are in place.

**5. Other Considerations**

The learning materials developed will also support the service's strategic aim of providing learning in new and different ways. It will also support the service's strategic aim of narrowing the achievement gap for those learners experiencing social and/or economic barriers to their participation in learning. This in turn will seek to ensure that these Derbyshire residents will have improved life chances and contribute to the economic well-being of the County.

**6. Call-In**

Is it required that Call-In be waived by any decision in this report? No

**7. Key Decision**

No

**8. Background Papers**

Erasmus+ KA202 – Co-operation and Innovation for Good Practices – Reducing disparities' in learning outcomes affecting disadvantaged learners. [Application submitted on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015]

**9. Strategic Director's Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People is asked to:

- approve the involvement of the Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service in the trans-national IMPADA project, including the commitment of staff time, use of buildings, equipment, resources and limited travel abroad to discharge the expectations of the project; and
- approve that Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service undertakes the lead applicant role within the partnership.

**Ian Johnson, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**