

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting with Cabinet Member, Health and Communities

13 October 2015

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

THE ART OF BEING BRILLIANT - CREATIVE EDUCATION INPUT

1. Purpose of the report:

To consider a request to fund £30,000 to provide for the extension of the contract for 'The Art of Being Brilliant' education input for schools in Derbyshire, including Special Schools.

2. Information and analysis:

Since 2012, "The Art of Brilliance" has been commissioned to deliver an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Education Programme in schools across Derbyshire. The programme aims to inspire young people to focus on pro-social thinking habits, attitudes and behaviours and allows young people to design their own "brilliant" action plans which involve the rest of the school and wider community. The Art of Brilliance ethos is that "brilliant" young people have no interest in crime and ASB.

The programme is aimed at secondary school students and has been delivered in mainstream schools in 'hot spot' areas as well as to Pupil Support Centres, Special schools and to children in care. The learning outcomes include understanding the consequences of ASB and alcohol misuse, respect for others and their differences and helps students to gain the confidence to stand up to peer pressure.

The programme format includes a staff session prior to a workshop with the students. This is then followed up with a further workshop a month later. This can involve students drawing up an action plan for their school and community. Finally, a 'celebration event' takes place for the champions to showcase the work they had undertaken as part of the project.

Over the past three years the project has delivered workshops in 20 mainstream secondary schools, nine special schools and three pupil support centres. It has also delivered two sessions to a group of year six primary school students and two sessions to a group of looked after children. A total of 3,744 students have participated in the Art of Brilliance since 2012.

Comprehensive evaluations have been carried out, which have measured changes in student's attitudes since participating in the project. Perception surveys were carried out, which revealed that student's attitudes at school, confidence and happiness levels had improved since taking part. Students also felt more confident to stand up to friends who were doing something wrong or dangerous. There was an improvement in attitudes towards ASB, respecting difference and understanding the impact of alcohol consumption. Comments from students and teachers included; *"My behaviour influences people around me"* *"I learned to try and be the best person I can possibly be."* *"Take responsibility for your own actions."* *"Make the right choice"* *"Even the students with challenging behaviour engaged fully, and displayed the best responses."*

It is proposed that the programme is continued for another year with a specific focus on delivering the workshops in pupil support centres, targeted mainstream secondary schools and also to groups of children in care. This will be brought together by a 'celebration event' to showcase student's work. This programme will cost £30,000 and funding would be found from the Communities Budget.

The Art of Brilliance was commissioned to deliver this input for three years from 2012–2015, via a formal tender process undertaken by the Community Safety Unit, with support from Derbyshire County Council's Procurement Department. Because there is not sufficient time to undertake the formal tender process and deliver the project in this academic year, it is proposed that the contract be extended for one year in order for the input to be delivered in this academic year. Any project which is proposed for the academic year 2016-2017 will be subjected to the full tender process, assuming budget is available to deliver this.

3. Financial considerations

The £30,000 for the continued funding of the project can be met from the Communities budget 2014/15.

4. Legal considerations

The Council's Financial Regulations provide for an extension of a contract beyond the original period for which it was awarded. It is considered appropriate for the contract to be extended in the circumstances set out in the report.

5. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, and property and transport considerations.

6. Background papers:

Art of Brilliance Evaluation 2015-2016

7. Key Decision:

No

8. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

9. Officer's recommendation:

That the Art of Being Brilliant Education input is continued at a cost of £30,000 to be met from the Communities budget.

**David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities**