

Bristol Schools Forum
Belonging with SEND Programme

Date of meeting:	12 January 2023
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Remote meeting

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform and update the School's Forum on the progress of the Belonging with SEND programme (the Programme).
- 1.2 To outline and seek approval on the next steps for the Programme and note potential areas of focus for the academic year 2023/24.

2. Recommendation

School's Forum is invited to:

- 2.1 Review the progress to date and next steps for implementation of the Programme.**
- 2.2 Approve the rollover of the Programme funding to cover the academic year 2023/24.**
- 2.3 Approve the extension of the Programme Management role up to the end of September 2024.**
- 2.4 Approve the widening of the criteria to include Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations as recipients of funding.**

3. Background – Belonging with SEND

- 3.1 The Programme is funded through the High Needs Block – the total amount of funding for school-based inclusion projects is £900,000
- 3.2 The Programme is overseen by a Programme Manager working for Bristol City Council – funding for this role is split between this programme and a

grant from the Department for Education to deliver the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme.

- 3.3 The objective of the Programme is to provide grant funding to schools to develop projects that have the potential to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- 3.4 The original timeline for the completion of the Programme was at the end of the academic year 2022/23.
- 3.5 At a School's Forum meeting on 27/09/2022 the Forum accepted that some projects may not be able to close at the end of this academic year and may continue into the 2023/24 academic year.
- 3.6 At the School's Forum meeting on 27/09/2022 the Forum agreed that the Programme Manager, working in collaboration with both internal and external inclusion experts could centrally develop inclusion projects and invite schools to take part.

4. Progress of the Belonging with SEND programme to date

- 4.1 Grant funding is available in three components:
 - 4.1.1 Component 1 – Grants of up to £100,000 available to groups of schools looking to implement evidence-based interventions which have yet to be tested in Bristol.
 - 4.1.2 Component 2 – Grants of up to £50,000 available to groups of schools looking to scale up existing evidence-based interventions which have been successful in Bristol.
 - 4.1.3 Component 3 – Grants of up to £5,000 for individual, or groups of schools looking to implement evidence-informed interventions using a test and learn approach.
- 4.2 The Programme is overseen by a Programme Board consisting of partners from Bristol City Council's early intervention, and educational inclusion and psychology services. The University of Bristol, Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and parents/carers with lived experience of the SEND system in Bristol are also represented on the Board.
- 4.3 The Programme has been designed to align with the Belonging in Education Strategy, and to build on the recently completed Developing

Effective Leadership of Teaching Assistants (DELTA) programme delivered to 76 Bristol schools in partnership with the EFF.

- 4.4 Round 1 grant funding went live on the 01/07/2022. Grant applications were submitted for components 1 and 2 only, with a deadline set for the 27/07/2022. In total 3 applications for component 1, and 1 application for component 2 were received.
- 4.5 Round 2 of the grant funding went live on the 01/08/2022. Grant applications could be submitted for all 3 components, with a deadline set for the 30/09/2022. In total 3 applications for component 1, 3 applications for component 2, and 15 applications for component 3 were received.
- 4.6 Grant applications were reviewed by the Programme Board and assessed against criteria set out in the application form. The following projects were agreed in funding rounds 1 & 2:

Component	School	Amount	Funding Round	Summary
1	Woodlands Academy	£54,537	1	Use funding to roll-out Hamish & Milo wellbeing intervention focusing on emotional literacy for primary-aged children in three primary schools (Waycroft, Woodlands, Wicklea)
2	North Star Academy	£50,000	1	Build on the strengths of the NSO primary offer extending into 5 secondary schools. Focus on KS3, building on successful transition work and

				extending into Years 8 and 9.
2	Educational Psychology – Bristol City Council	£48,200	2	MeLSA training 2 cohorts of 20 LSA/TAs – first cohort starts March 2023. Funding also agreed for one whole school MeLSA programme academic year 2023/24
2	Cathedral Primary School	£22,401	2	Build a trauma informed and ACE aware culture in Cathedral and Hotwells Primary Schools, following the implementation plan outlined in the grant agreement.
2	City Academy	£47,200	2	Work with external provider, Unique Voice, to provide the ‘Bossing It!’ programme to approximately 180 targeted young people with SEND across four CLF schools.
2	Cabot Learning Federation	£17,000	2	Deliver a transition project working with non-CLF primary schools to improve transition for children with SEND in Years 6 & 7. The project will build on and bring together

				two streams of work that are currently happening under the umbrella of support for the most vulnerable pupils at the Cabot Learning Federation.
2	Barton Hill Academy	£2,226	3	Funding to support a SEND resource library for SENCo use
2	Hareclive E-Act Academy	£4,820	3	10 I pads and Clicker subscriptions to support children with SEND who struggle to read written text
2	Knowle Park Primary School	£5,000	3	MeLSA training and supervision for 3 Learning Support Assistants (LSA)
2	North Star	£5,000	3	Funding to support a SEND resource library for SENCo use
2	Southville Primary	£5,000	3	20 sit/stand desks to support children with ADHD in KS2
2	St Annes Infants	£3,000	3	Music therapy interventions
2	St Bonaventures RC Primary School	£5,000	3	ELSA funding for 2 support staff
2	SS Peter and Paul RC Primary School	£4,576	3	Create sensory space for children with autism

2	St Werburgh's Primary School	£5,000	3	Music therapy intervention
2	Summerhill Infants	£3,415	3	Social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) family programme – support and training
Total		£282,375		

- 4.7 9 grant applications were rejected in rounds 1 and 2 as they did not demonstrate alignment with the grant criteria.
- 4.8 Funding for components 1 and 2 are paid in instalments. Successful applicants are subject to monitoring visits and evaluation points. The payment schedule is as follows:

% Grant	Payment following
30%	Acceptance of grant
20%	1 st evaluation
20%	2 nd evaluation
20%	Final evaluation
10%	Dissemination of learning

- 4.9 The payment schedule for component 3 is as follows:

% Grant	Payment following
40%	Acceptance of grant
40%	Monitoring
20%	Final report

5. Next Steps for Belonging with SEND Programme

- 5.1 Funding round 3 which was due to close on 16/12/2022 was postponed due pending a review of the process and due to capacity demands on the project team. Round 3 will now open in January 2023 with a submission deadline of 30/03/2023. Projects funded in round 3 will be expected to begin in the academic year 2023/24 (following approval from school forum).

- 5.2 Early Language Development (ELD) in Reception and Key Stage 1 has been identified as a consistent theme in South Bristol. The intention is to engage Early Years colleagues, the EEF and South Bristol schools to develop a central support offer to improve language development with an expected start date of September 2023 (following approval from school forum).
- 5.3 Several voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations have expressed an interest in developing or widening an intervention to support children with SEND in mainstream schools. The current funding criteria requires schools to apply for funding, or for the programme manager to develop central projects and offer them to schools. It is proposed that the Belonging with SEND programme be widened to allow VCS organisations working with schools to bid for funding.