

New Cross Gate NDC/Trust

Draft Education Forward Strategy

Introduction

This draft strategy results from initial discussion within the Education Theme Group (ETG) at its May meeting and a subsequent email poll of theme group and NDC Board members.

It sets out the opportunities which the Trust may employ to sustain the benefits delivered through New Cross Gate NDC programme during the last nine years.

It provides key information about approach, existing projects and finances. It concentrates on what we intend to do and how we will do it, rather than giving detailed information about performance and strategies.

Detailed information on the previous NDC strategies and analysis of projects are summarised elsewhere – the NDC's Annual Reports and Performance Assessments.

Our Vision

'There will be a positive culture of education in New Cross Gate, promoting lifelong learning within the local community.'

Achieving the Vision

'We will promote a positive culture of lifelong learning by supporting early years, extended school services, adult essential skills and vocational training. We will sustain this vision of our work through inclusive engagement of key partners, and deliver projects to meet the strategic priorities of the NDC partnership.'

1. Review of NDC Work

The education theme is perhaps the most complex of the NDC's programme and incorporates a range of free-standing but inter-related projects to support the attainment of the NDC's vision. The strategic outcomes for the theme are:

ED1 Improve educational attainment to and above the national average at key stages 1 2, 3 & 4

ED2 Increase take-up of post-16 learning and training

Continuing projects include:

Childminders Drop-in Continuation

Childminders will continue to meet a range of childcare needs, providing for babies, under 5s and special educational needs children. The Childminders Drop-in increases the quantity and quality of local childminding services in partnership with Family Information Service, Lewisham Early Years Service and local colleges by providing training, practical support, information and advice.

Family Learning Continuation

Family Learning promotes lifelong learning amongst adults and children. This programme provides activities for families including ICT, arts & crafts and storytelling. It helps parents to support their children with school studies, while at the same time developing the parent's own skills. After a successful evaluation, this project will continue to support parental involvement as part of the wider extended services agenda. Focussing on a robust exit strategy, the project will provide popular activities for families and specialised information, advice and guidance linked with the 170 Community Project, 170 Works and Hatfield Skills Training Centre.

Green Shoots

Green Shoots is a family learning and environmental project providing learning around gardening and environmental topics, including pond and insect life, bee-keeping and composting. Based at Besson Street Gardens, it utilises a new 'eco-box' learning centre, with grass roof, accommodating up to 16 children or 12 adults. It is planned that, together with the Family Learning project, it will evolve into a combined initiative including a strong promotion of volunteering .

Learning Mentor Projects

Learning Mentors work with pupils to improve attainment and attendance at both Deptford Green and Addey and Stanhope Schools. A 'Restorative Justice' approach is used at Deptford Green School.

Primary Schools Collaborative

Targeting NDC pupils at primary schools serving the NDC area, including Childeric, Edmund Waller, Kender and St. James Hatcham, this project was modified in Year 9 to provide continuing speech and language therapist support.

Roots & Wings

This continuation project is delivered through the Greenwich and Lewisham Roots & Wings Business Mentoring Scheme. It brokers partnerships between schools and companies to support one-on-one mentoring relationships. It successfully provides a programme to broaden the horizons of pupils by confidence building and raising aspirations through the world of work.

Study Support Club

Study Support Club, piloted successfully in Year 6, targets NDC pupils who attend schools in neighbouring boroughs. This project delivers study support, mentoring and enrichment activities at Hatfield Skills Training Centre to enhance academic aspiration and attainment.

2. AIMS AND TARGETS

2.1. Aims

Discussion and consultation within the membership of the Education Theme Group indicates a strong consensus in support of promoting partnership working through the Family Learning initiative to facilitate an on-going culture '*. . . promoting lifelong learning within the local community.*'

Through the Education Theme Group, the Trust will monitor and review the strategy, work with partners, manage the administration of projects and identify potential funding, etc. The theme group will also be able to market projects and services sponsored by the Trust.

2.2. Targets

The prime target of the Trust is to facilitate and secure the engagement of partners in the delivery of lifelong learning, starting from the early years. In the first instance this will be accommodated through the Education Theme Group and the work of the Family Learning and Green Shoots projects. There is also scope for promoting childcare training and provision to ensure the necessary support framework for a culture of learning.

The former will involve the ETG, working with statutory and third sector partners, identifying synergies and opportunities for additional projects and the funding resources. The latter will include liaison with local residents and their children, promoting out-of-school engagement through educational activities.

2.3. Milestones

The key milestones will be:

- the continuation of regular, termly meetings of the Education Theme Group to secure partnership involvement and to inform the co-ordination of Trust's contribution to facilitation of lifelong learning;
- securing funding for Family Learning/Green Shoots post-2011; and
- securing funding for at least two other educational or educational support initiatives.

3. PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKS

The Trust will cultivate its links with third and statutory sector agencies to secure its objectives. Prime partners, both current and potential, include:

Family Learning, Green Shoots, Playhouse Nursery, Bunbury Childminders, local primary and secondary schools, Hatfield Skills Training Centre, Children's Centres, continuing education projects, Lewisham College, Goldsmiths', Community Education Lewisham, Pre School Learning Alliance, CAMHS, All Saints Community Centre, 170 Works, Building Healthier Communities, PCT and Volunteering Centre Lewisham, Lewisham's Children's Services and the Children's Trusts, etc.

4. SERVICES TO DELIVER

The primary service to be delivered will be support for the ETG to facilitate partnership working and the effective delivery of additional lifelong learning in the area. Support will also be provided to the Family Learning and Green Shoots projects which will form the locus of lifelong learning engagement and delivery in New Cross Gate. Through partnership working between the Education Theme Group and these two projects, the Trust will be able to identify the requirements and opportunities for the delivery of lifelong learning in the area.

Past experience indicates that statutory partners (schools and PCT) delivering educational initiatives on behalf of the NDC have done so with little need for close support. The Trust will therefore seek to procure funding-raising support to facilitate investment in additional educational interventions which are needed in an area of multiple deprivation but not part of statutory delivery.

5. BUDGET

The education theme has enjoyed a significant share of the NDC's overall budget in past years: previous levels of support for educational initiatives, however, will not be sustainable in the short- or medium-term. For instance, the joint annual budget of Family Learning and Green Shoots is in excess of £80k.

This proposal is predicated on an annual budget of £50k. The Trust may direct this to:

- Retain a theme manager (0.2 f.t.e.) to:
 - Service and organise education theme groups meetings (minimum three per year);
 - Represent the Trust at relevant education sector meetings, e.g., Pre-School Learning Alliance; Children's Centre's, etc.
 - Make funding applications in support of project initiatives;
- Provide match funding in support of funding applications which promote lifelong learning and a culture of learning;
- Retain, when required, a professional fund-raiser to make applications.

Programme to Deliver NXG Education Forward Strategy

Element	Objective	Details	Timetable
Education Theme Group	Regular meetings of the ETG	Secure partnership working and co-ordination of Trust objectives to promote lifelong learning	Termly, min. of 3 per year
Represent Trust	Represent Trust at education sector meetings	Pre-School Learning Alliance; Children's Centre's	As advised by Trust/ETG
Support locus project	Support Family Learning/Green Shoots. Also Bunbury Childminders and Playhouse Nursery	Promote partnership working to secure Trust's lifelong learning objectives and support childcare training and provision in the area	As advised by Trust/ETG
Fund-raising	Support educational initiatives with funding applications	Make applications to support theme objectives and initiatives	As reqd. but min. of 10 per year
Match funding	To secure support for initiatives	Match funding to support applications	During 4 th quarter
Fund-raiser	To secure funding for initiatives	Applications to secure funding for initiatives	As advised by Trust