

EDUCATION CHARITY SUB (EDUCATION BOARD) COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 November 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Charity Sub (Education Board) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Henry Colthurst (Chairman)	Rehana Ameer
Ann Holmes (Deputy Chairman)	Randall Anderson
Veronica Wadley	Susan Pearson
Deputy Philip Woodhouse	

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	-	Town Clerk's Department
Paige Upchurch	-	Town Clerk's Department
Anne Pietsch	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Jack Joslin	-	Central Grants Unit, Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS

Susan Pearson declared a general non-pecuniary interest as a Governor of Richard Cloudesley School, Islington.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received the sub-committee's terms of reference.

RESOLVED – that the terms of reference be noted.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2017 be approved.

5. GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS - CITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND (290840) & CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY (312836)

Members considered a report of the Chief Grants Officer regarding grant recommendations for the City Educational Trust Fund (290840) and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836).

5.1 Eligibility Criteria - The City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity and the City Educational Trust Fund

Members noted that the eligibility criteria for the two charities would be discussed further elsewhere on the agenda.

RESOLVED – that the current Central Grants Programme assessment process, eligibility criteria and budget be noted.

5.2 Due Diligence Checklist for Combined Education Charity and City Educational Trust

Members considered the due diligence checklist for the Combined Education Charity and the City Educational Trust and the following points were made.

- In response to a question, the Chief Grants Officer confirmed that there were separate checklists for individual applicants and for organisational applicants to complete, and that the existing forms could be amended to make the distinction clearer.
- In response to a question, the Chief Grants Officer noted that together with the Chamberlain's Department organisational applicants' financial accounts were reviewed, which was distinct from, but contributed to, the due diligence process.

RESOLVED – that the due diligence checklist for the Combined Education Charity and the City Educational Trust be noted.

5.3 The City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity - Grant Recommendations

Members considered the recommendations of the Chief Grants Officer regarding applications for grants from the Combined Education Charity and the following points were made.

- The Chief Grants Officer noted that the eligibility criteria governing the Combined Education Charity adopted by the Education Board in early 2017 meant that no current applications could be recommended for approval. Whilst the four applications by individuals before Members could be considered eligible under the objects of the charity, they were ineligible under the current eligibility criteria which had been adopted as a policy to guide the application of the charity's limited funds.
- Members noted that the intention of the current eligibility criteria had been to encourage applications from organisational applicants, with individual applications only being considered in truly exceptional circumstances.
- The Deputy Chairman expressed caution in recommending the four applications for approval to the Education Board as exceptional cases which supported a departure from the existing eligibility criteria. Instead, the existing eligibility criteria should be revised in line with the charity's objects to allow for grants to individuals where their individual circumstances were considered to be exceptional.
- The Deputy Chairman commented that, in her view, only individuals who otherwise would not qualify for mainstream funding should be eligible for consideration for funding from the charity. An example would be a

working parent who wished to continue their education having already completed a part-time course.

- Following further discussion, Members requested that the Chief Grants Officer redraft the existing eligibility criteria in line with comments made by Members, namely reducing the overall grant range from £25,000 to between £2,500-£10,000 reflecting the funds available for distribution each year, making clearer the exceptional circumstances for which grants would be considered for individuals to allow them to continue their education, and that grants would only be provided to organisations or individuals operating in secondary, further or higher educational settings.
- In response to a question, the Chief Grants Officer replied that the available grants were advertised through the City of London Corporation Education Unit networks, and websites utilised by the City of London Corporation's Central Grants Team but that work was on-going to seek to attract eligible applications from wider sources. Prospective applicants were encouraged to contact the Central Grant Team prior to making an application, which ensured only potentially viable applications were submitted.

RESOLVED, that Members

- Note that no applications are recommended for funding from the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity;
- Request that the existing Grants Policy and Funding Eligibility Criteria governing the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312826) be amended in line with comments made by Members, and submitted to the Community and Children's Services Committee for consultation, and the Education Board for approval.

5.4 The City Educational Trust Fund - Grant Recommendations

Members considered the recommendations of the Chief Grants Officer regarding applications for grants from the City Educational Trust Fund. In response to a request from Members, the Chief Grants Officer agreed to amend the eligibility criteria to make clear that grants of up to £25,000 would be considered.

RESOLVED, that Members,

- Approve a £17,000 grant to The Friends of the Guildhall Art Gallery (1115269).
- Approve a £10,900 grant to Inspire! New Hackney Education Business Partnership Ltd (1111037).
- Approve a £10,825 grant to Queen Mary University of London (exempt charity).

- Approve a £25,000 grant to Raines Foundation School (14294).
- Note the applications recommended for rejection,
 - Willow Brook Primary
 - Greenleaf Primary School.
- Request that the existing Grants Policy and Funding Eligibility Criteria governing the City of London Corporation City Educational Trust Fund (290840) be amended in line with comments made by Members, and submitted to the Community and Children's Services Committee for consultation, and the Education Board for approval.

6. **QUESTIONS**

Applications from the City Family of Schools

In response to a question from a Member, the Comptroller and City Solicitor noted that any application to the two charities by the City Family of Schools would need to be considered on its merits but also having regard to the City Corporation's duty as a charity trustee to avoid any self-benefit to the City of London Corporation in administering the two charities. There may be more scope to support applications from the academies sponsored by the City Corporation, and it may be more difficult where applications came from the City's independent schools as they were already directly funded by the City of London Corporation. A lot would depend upon the nature of the application and who was to directly benefit, i.e. the school or individuals attending the relevant school.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Spitalfields Music Trust

The Chairman noted that the Spitalfields Music Trust, which was in receipt of a historic grant from City Educational Trust on the decision of the City of London Corporation's Finance Committee (which Committee previously had delegated authority to administer the charity), would likely seek to make another grant application once its current grant funding expired. Members noted that any application would need to be considered against the current eligibility criteria. It was further noted that the current eligibility criteria prevented organisations in receipt of funding from the two charities to make further applications within five years of an original grant.

The meeting closed at 4.50 pm

Chairman

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