

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	12 January 2017
Subject: City Bridge Trust projects supporting young Londoners into employment	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer, City Bridge Trust	For Information
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Summary

This report provides an overview of projects currently supported by City Bridge Trust (CBT) with the objective of supporting young Londoners into employment.

Strategic Objective 3 of the City of London Corporation's Education Strategy 2016 – 2019 is – “to ensure that young Londoners in the City's schools and beyond have access to the information, advice and experiences that will help them into fulfilling careers”.

In order to bring to light any potential synergies between work of the Education Board and the CBT funded employability programmes, this report is provided with the intention of maximising impact and reach of employability programmes to young Londoners of school age.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Every five years, CBT undertakes a Strategic Review. This review takes a fresh look at the ever-changing needs of Londoners to align its funding priorities based on evidence of need for the next five years. There is a review currently underway which will establish the funding strategy for 2018 – 2023 (refer to point 14 of this report).
2. CBT does not currently have an employability-focused funding priority that allows London based organisations to apply for funding. However, CBT does fund a number of strategic initiatives that support young Londoners into employment.

3. These employability programmes have built on the work of previous strategic initiatives such as the 'Getting Young People Working – the Youth Offer' which awarded £3.2m over two years to each of the 32 local authorities in 2013. These grants supported programmes of activities supporting young NEETs, between the ages of 14 – 24.
4. Organisations currently in receipt of an employability-related grant supporting young Londoners (11 – 19) are The Prince's Trust (PT), London Youth and the Mayor's Fund for London. These grants have been issued based on their alignment with the previous Strategic Review (2013 – 2018) and the evidence of need of Londoners.

The Prince's Trust

5. In 2015, £10m over a 10 year period (£1m/year) was awarded to The Prince's Trust (PT) to enable PT to impact some of the most socially deprived areas of London, and allow the City of London Corporation, through its corporate trusteeship of the charity Bridge House Estates, to ensure more work is done across London to assist young people from challenging backgrounds. The vast majority of young people supported through the PT grant are aged 13-25. They have been engaged through PT's community-based Outreach teams and core range of Education, Training & Development programmes – which provide essential support to young people who are underachieving in education or at risk of underachieving; and young people who are unemployed and not yet ready for work.
6. PT previously had a low level presence in London schools. Using the evidence that came out of a recent external evaluation into its old 'xl' schools programme, the PT launched its new 'Achieve' schools programme in mid-2016. Whilst this new programme saw positive improvements in behaviour (e.g. 50% reduction in exclusions) the programme is presented to young people as a way to develop employability skills. This programme is currently being delivered in The City Academy Hackney, with further invitations to grow the programme across London.
7. Funding from CBT has allowed the PT to develop a London Growth Plan, which aims to see the number of young people supported in the capital double in the next five years. This rate of growth would not have been possible were it not for this grant from CBT.

London Youth

8. In January 2016, £279,000 was awarded to London Youth – the infrastructure/support charity for the capital's voluntary managed youth organisations. This funding supports the City Leaders project which aims to support the development and sustainability of the voluntary youth sector in London through training and supporting a cohort of disadvantaged young people to develop their leadership skills and to become City Leaders.

9. The initiative aims to tackle some barriers to opportunity faced (or perceived) by disadvantaged young people, as well as to provide more opportunities for them to take a more positive role in London's civic society. It derives from research in 2013 which showed that in the 50 largest charities only 6% of senior management personnel and 8% of trustees were from a BAME background.¹
10. As well as providing a range of support to other organisations, London Youth runs a series of front-line projects and services – all designed to meet its mission 'to support and challenge young people to be the best they can be'. Its membership comprises 400 diverse youth organisations (attended by 75,000 young people a year) across every London borough, and offers an alternative entry-point into support from mainstream schools.

Mayor's Fund for London

11. Most recently, in November 2016, £500,000 was awarded to the Mayor's Fund for London over two years to deliver the Enterprise Advisor Programme: creating powerful lasting connections between businesses and schools, improving student understanding of the world of work.
12. As well as delivering the Enterprise Advisor Programme, the Mayor's Fund for London will provide additional programme enhancements :
 - a. Sectoral focus, specialism and expertise to be developed within the Enterprise Advisor teams that reflects key opportunity sectors e.g. construction, science, technology and engineering, creative and hospitality;
 - b. An Employability Passport provided to each young person as a record and evidence of their journey and achievements.
13. The programme will engage 65 London schools over the two years, each with a fully embedded career strategy that involves all year groups. Senior Leadership in schools will have a better understanding of the careers offer across the whole of their schools. There will be an increase in the number of employer interactions in each school, and students will gain an increased understanding of the world of work.

City Bridge Trust Strategic Review

14. Since its inception in 1995, CBT's grant-making has been rooted in the evidence of need in London, gathered through consulting with Londoners on a regular basis, with a pattern of comprehensive review every five years (the CBT Strategic Review). The current funding strategy 'Investing in Londoners', which the grants discussed in this report fall under, was based on this formal process of the strategic review. The process for planning CBT's 2018-2023 funding strategy began in September 2016.

¹ "Elitist Britain? Commission on Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, 2013

15. Three pieces of research have been commissioned by CBT as part of the review – analysing needs in London; funding best practice; and scoping CBT’s role in London’s funding ecology. Working collaboratively on the review, the process has and will continue to involve speaking to as wide an audience as possible, including colleagues within the City of London Corporation, the funding sector, grantees, civil society organisations and many more. This evidence-based approach will underpin the funding strategy for the five year period to commence from 2018. Dedicated sessions for Members, focussing on the review, are being organised for the New Year. More details are available at <http://www.citybridgetrust.org.uk/strategic-review/> and input is welcomed.

Central Grants Programme

16. CBT has currently seconded a Grants Officer into the Central Grants Programme (CGP) for a six month period. The CGP is overseen by the Chief Grants Officer (CGO) and the intention is that best practice from CBT is instilled into the CGP ensuring a robust and transparent approach. Both the City Educational Trust Fund (290840) and The City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836) provide ‘Education and Employment’ funding and form part of the CGP.
17. The first round of grant applications was considered by the Education Charity Sub-Committee on Monday 12th December 2016. A full list is available in the papers provided to the Education Charity Sub-Committee and on the City of London Corporation online portal. Examples include: £3,000 to The City Academy, Hackney to provide musical opportunities through close partnership with the Guildhall School of Music and other professional musicians to 29 pupils (classified as Pupil Premium) at the Academy; and £2,000 towards the fees for BSc Information Systems at the University of Greenwich for an applicant with an annual household income below the Minimum Income Standards as defined by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

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