

LEARNING VISIT REPORT
The New Cross Gate Trust (12139)

1.1 Date of visit: 04/03/2016	1.2 Name of visiting Grants Officer: Jack Joslin	1.3 People met with: Rosa Tomkinson Jill Mountford
1.4 Programme Area & Outcomes: English for Speakers of Other Languages		
1.5 Purpose of the award: £63,500 over three years (£22,000; £21,000; £20,500) for salary costs of a part-time (2dpw) qualified ESOL Tutor plus running costs of a programme of ESOL classes up to and including Level 2.		
MONITORING INFORMATION		
2.1 Project Outcome 1: Participants will demonstrate improved English language skills along a continuum from Entry to Level 2. Classes will be certificated. Progress made: In 2014 the trust requested funds to employ an ESOL tutor to deliver 4 lessons per week, term time, up to Level 2. I observed a Level 2 class many of whom had been attending since 2014. The participants I observed had a good level of English and the tutor was supportive in helping each participant with the pronunciation of words and with expanding their practical vocabulary. The class I attended had 7 participants on the day. I was informed this should usually be 12 but they had a couple of drop outs and absences recently. Rosa, the tutor, has a good rapport with the group and was sympathetic to their needs. From my discussion with her afterwards she has seen a great improvement amongst this specific group since she began teaching them in 2014. This class was working towards their Level 2 certificate.		
2.2 Project Outcome 2: Participants will develop stronger social networks, make new friends, and feel able to come out of the house more, and try out new activities. Progress made: A big component of this project when the Trust applied in 2014 was to improve the social interaction amongst participants. The way the ESOL programme is taught encourages participants to interact with each other through discussions and role play. The group I observed all got on well and had good interactions with each other. The tutor informed me that participants had indicated that this course had improved their independence and from discussion with the students it felt like the course had allowed them to interact better with others in their community. The Trust runs a variety of social events and programmes in their gardens that they offer to the ESOL participants to promote social interaction and try other activities.		
2.3 Project Outcome 3: Participants will develop the confidence and understanding of how to access local services, such as health services, employment support, benefit advice, council		

services, further education or even employment.

Progress made:

The ESOL programme is focused on improving participants' knowledge of local services and how to access them. Alongside conversational classroom based lessons they also take participants on trips to visit local services. The session I attended had a guest speaker delivering a talk on environmental issues and helping participants understand how to approach recycling as a London resident. From discussion with the tutor and coordinator it was clear that they focus their lessons on how to integrate in society and access services, they focus on improving their language so participants can gain confidence to progress once the course had finished.

2.4 Project Outcome 4:

Families will have a better understanding of the school system, and what is expected of parents to support their child's learning journey.

Progress made:

As mentioned above the lessons they provide focus on a range of day to day activities that allow participants to integrate better in the local community. Some of the lessons involve trips to local schools and colleges and they provide conversational lessons to support the participants at parents evening. They provide additional support and signposting to participants that require it.

GRANT OFFICER COMMENTS

From visiting the project and observing one of the classes it is clear that the organisation is delivering a good ESOL programme. The tutor Rosa is very experienced and has a very good rapport with the class. Being Brazilian herself she relates well to the participants who all come from a range of nationalities and backgrounds. The classroom is based at the Trust's Besson Street Community Garden which is a fantastic space surrounded by greenery. Although the main focus of the provision is on English language they also find that they need to deal with situations as they arise. Some of the participants have difficult lives which require Rosa to provide additional support to participants from time to time. The organisation is well linked to local services and signposts and refers participants to other services when necessary. I was satisfied that the organisation was delivering a good, well run ESOL programme and from discussions they are managing to deliver to more participants than expected since applying for your funding.

As the programme is half-way through its funding we discussed how they will be looking to continue this project when funding ceases. In the initial assessment they mentioned that a Lewisham council were building a community facility near by which would be managed by the Trust. This however has been delayed and the approval for the building only just been passed by Mayoral cabinet. They anticipate the buildings to be finished by 2017 at the latest so will be looking elsewhere to ensure they can maintain this project.