

Gypsy and Travellers Forward Report

Background

Travellers IT Project

Aims

The project would allow travellers on the Blackwell site and Smithy Fen, Cottenham to access computer learning and computer based activities. It is aimed primarily at those excluded from the education system through their culture, particularly young females and young parents.

The project will be open to all it is envisaged that those with some degree of previous education or who are in education will wish to access it.

As it is a multi-agency project a key aim will be to forge links with strategic and voluntary agencies in promoting educational attainment and allowing access to opportunities through the use of technology. It will help reduce the social exclusion experienced by of the Travelling community.

Initially, the project would go to the Blackwell site due to the age profile and anticipated take-up.

Key Partners

The key partners are Nacro, Cambridge Housing Society and Cambridgeshire County Council Traveller Education.

Operational Resources

SCDC will organise, oversee and co-ordinate activities on the day(s) and ensure that the aims of the project are met.

Nacro will provide the bus, the driver and equipment. The driver is also a facilitator.

Cambridge Housing Society will attend on the day(s) when the bus will be on site to facilitate sessions and sign up people interested in accessing "Make the computer work for you" scheme. This is funded through Cambridge Horizons and forms part of Cambridge Housing Societies community development initiatives. Residents can sign up which will give them access to computer training, loan of a lap top, printer, digital camera and the opportunity to work towards a recognised qualification. The course does have a cost but if residents are unemployed there is a reduced cost.

Funding Requirements

The cost of the bus is £500 per day, which includes driver and all IT equipment. Based on anticipated demand and advice from Cambridge Housing Society 6 visits spread over a 3 month period would be the optimum number required to meet the project aims. This would equate to £3000.

There is no other funding required however for residents who would experience financial hardship which would deter them accessing the scheme a pot of money is requested to enable them to access the CHS scheme free of charge. £?

Forward Planning

The project aims to kick start a learning culture on the Blackwell site as funding would be sought to provide two computers and printers to be situated in the site community facility.

To take the project forward SCDC would publicise it as evidence of good practice and possibly innovation. The concept could be rolled out to other providers.

Funding for the continued provision of the bus and the computer course from Cambridge Housing Society from agencies, both statutory and voluntary.

Buffy Bus

Aims

The project would allow travellers on the Blackwell site and Smithy Fen, Cottenham to access play activity sessions for the under five age group. It is aimed at families with younger children, who may not have access to nursery facilities and aims to provide a safe, social environment for the children to play, supervised by fully qualified play leaders. It also aims to provide a social environment for young mothers.

The project will be open to all families with children up to five years old.

A key aim will be to encourage pre-school learning, engage with young mothers and through cross agency working promote early entry into the education system.

Initially, the project would go to the Blackwell site due to the age profile and anticipated take-up.

Key Partners

The key partners are Buffy Bus and Cambridgeshire County Council Traveller Education.

Operational Resources

SCDC will organise, oversee and co-ordinate activities on the day(s) and ensure that the aims of the project are met.

The Buffy Bus is fully equipped and is staffed with driver and fully qualified play leaders.

Traveller Education will be on site during the sessions, which last for around one and a half hours and each session can accommodate up to 15 children.

Funding Requirements

The cost of the bus is £300 per day, which includes all equipment and staff. Based on anticipated demand it is felt that 12 visits spread over a 3 month period would be the optimum number required to meet the project aims. This would equate to £3600.

There is no other funding required, however Buffy Bus does rely upon a donation from the users of the bus and therefore for residents who would experience financial hardship that would deter them from accessing the scheme, a pot of money is requested to enable them to use the service free of charge.

Forward Planning

The project aims to introduce learning and structured play to young families before children are eligible for nursery places and to promote engagement with the young mothers on the sites.

To take the project forward SCDC would publicise it as evidence of good practice and possibly innovation. The concept could be rolled out to other providers.

Funding for the continued provision of the bus would come from agencies, both statutory and voluntary.

Awareness Project

Aims

To raise awareness, increase understanding of Gypsy and Traveller lives and issues and dispel some of the myths surround the Gypsy/Traveller culture to both internal and external parties.

The project is designed to be used wherever it is deemed strategic to do so, ie local colleges, meetings, etc.

It will help break down some of the barriers that exist between Gypsy/Travellers and the settled community and lead to a reduction in the social exclusion experienced by members of the Travelling community.

Initially, the project would be set up within the Street at South Cambridgeshire Hall.

Key Partners

The key partners are Ormiston, Cambridgeshire County Council Traveller Education.

Operational Resources

SCDC will organise, oversee and co-ordinate the project and ensure that its aims are met.

An exhibition type stand will be obtained and literature, films, books etc displayed.

Advice will be sought from the above organisations and Gypsy/Travellers themselves as to content to ensure balance of information.

Funding Requirements

The cost of putting together the project including acquiring literature, posters, DVD's and necessary equipment is estimated at £2000.

There is no other funding required

Forward Planning

The project aims to start the process of educating people who have little or no contact with Gypsies and Travellers about their lives and culture. In particular the project aims to highlight the similarities between people from a Gypsy/Traveller background and the settled community in respect of their needs and aspirations – education for their children, somewhere safe to stay, access to medical facilities, etc

To take the project forward SCDC would publicise it as evidence of good practice and possibly innovation.