

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 27 April 2023

Drake Music, National Youth choirs of Scotland and The Real David Cameron Grant Awards

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
- 1.1.1 Note the contents of the report;
 - 1.1.2 Agree to officers continuing to work in partnership with Drake Music and the National Youth choirs of Scotland (NYCoS) to deliver the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) programme in Edinburgh Primary and Special Schools;
 - 1.1.3 Agree to awarding Drake Music a grant of up to £30,000 per year for the continued provision of the Council's YMI programme
 - 1.1.4 Agree to awarding NYCoS a grant of up to £60,000 per year for the continued provision of the Council's YMI programme
 - 1.1.5 Agree to officers continuing to work in partnership with The Real David Cameron to deliver Creative Conversations in Edinburgh;
 - 1.1.6 Agree to awarding The Real David Cameron a grant of up to £12,000 per year for the continued development and delivery of Creative Conversations and related Creative Learning Network activity;

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Drake Music, NYCoS and The Real David Cameron Grant Awards

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service receives annual grants for the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) and Creative Learning Networks (CLN) from Creative Scotland and Education Scotland respectively. Due to the highly specialised nature of the work, the need for continuity and funders' requirements, open recruitment and/or obtaining three quotes is not realistic. To formalise payments, officers identified that a grant to each delivery partner would provide the stability and quality assurance required. Each grant would be for three years, awarded annually subject to further grant awards from Creative Scotland and Education Scotland. The YMI and CLN programmes are reviewed and evaluated annually, with detailed reports submitted to the funders. This report seeks committee approval to award grants to Drake Music, NYCoS (YMI in Primary and Special Schools), and The Real David Cameron (Creative Conversations) from the YMI and CLN grants awarded to City of Edinburgh Council.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government via Creative Scotland, awards each local authority an annual grant to deliver its YMI programme. As a Managed Fund, the grant amount is known in advance, does not vary from year to year and is not a competitive application. A detailed and fully costed application and end of year evaluation is required. Local Authority YMI plans are required to meet and report on the outcomes and quality standards set out by Creative Scotland.
- 3.2 The Arts and Creative Learning Team within the Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service has developed and delivered YMI for 20 years. Since 2010, YMI has delivered progressive learning opportunities from Early Years to P6 in all primary schools, and to pupils of all ages in Special schools. This is supplemented with extensive resources from Early to Second Level and CLPL (Career Long Professional Learning) for class teachers. The outcomes required by Creative Scotland are aligned with the Council's priorities for education, and over the years YMI has become a key feature of music education.

- 3.3 Edinburgh delivers its agreed YMI programme within the Funding Agreement with Creative Scotland with quality assured delivery partners Drake Music and NYCoS.
- 3.4 Since 2010 Education Scotland has awarded a grant annually to City of Edinburgh Council to develop the Creative Learning Network (CLN). Since the outset, the Arts and Creative Learning Team has adopted a strategic approach, working collaboratively with regional local authority partners. One of the biggest successes of the CLN has been the Creative Conversations which have run for over 10 years. They have attracted thousands of practitioners locally and nationally and are described as sector leading.
- 3.5 The success of Creative Conversations is due to a partnership with The Real David Cameron, as agreed in the Funding Agreement with Education Scotland. The Real David Cameron curates and co-ordinates Creative Conversations on behalf of Edinburgh. This unique partnership achieves a very wide reach and gives practitioners, leaders and partners access to highly regarded and sought after educational thinkers and leaders, for a cost which could not be achieved without this relationship. In addition, the Real David Cameron facilitates the conversations bringing skills, experience and a strong reputation, attracting wide participation in the Creative Conversations.
- 3.6 Officers would like to formalise these partnerships by awarding an annual grant to Drake Music, NYCoS and The Real David Cameron using the funding received by Creative Scotland and Education Scotland.

4. Main report

YMI in Edinburgh

- 4.1 A team of tutors deliver YMI in all schools using resources developed by the YMI team and drawing on the tutors' skills and experience. A consistent programme is timetabled for all P3 classes, which is delivered by NYCoS. The reason for engaging NYCoS is to consolidate earlier learning and to establish a solid foundation at P3 for further music education. NYCoS is a specialist music organisation with the skills and infrastructure to deliver on this scale and is quality assured by Creative Scotland.
- 4.2 NYCoS helps the Council ensure its YMI programme delivers the best experiences for children, at the same time meeting high artistic and musical expectations.
- 4.3 The YMI programme in Special Schools is delivered by a specialist tutor and Drake Music. Drake Music is a national organisation based in Edinburgh which specialises in music education for children with complex needs and learning disabilities. Drake has developed pedagogy and technologies specifically designed to meet the needs of learners in Special Schools. The work is of the highest quality and provides much needed musical opportunities for pupils who face significant barriers to traditional music learning.

- 4.4 Both NYCoS and Drake Music are nationally recognised and have a strong track record for successful and effective musical education. Creative Scotland requires local authorities to work with artists and musicians whose professional and specialist experience is beyond that of class teachers. This guarantees that pupils are exposed to musical learning opportunities that would not otherwise be available to them. All YMI programmes carry no direct or indirect costs to schools or pupils.

CLN Creative Conversations

- 4.5 CLN funding is awarded annually by Education Scotland, and Edinburgh has received funding every year since 2010. The purpose of the funding is to develop creative learning and teaching. A key aspect of the Funding Agreement with Education Scotland is the continued delivery of Creative Conversations which have grown in momentum over the past 12 years, now with a national reputation.
- 4.6 Creative Conversations engage education leaders, practitioners and partners in conversation with some of the leading thinkers in education nationally and internationally. Attendance is free providing the time and environment for debate, for thinking to be challenged and ideas explored. The expectation is for participants to use the experience to forge fresh approaches and new partnerships.
- 4.7 The Real David Cameron is a small company led by David Cameron, an education leader and former Director of Education and Children's Services. David Cameron is well known nationally and in high demand as a keynote speaker, consultant and facilitator, working with schools and local authorities across the UK. He has an extensive network of contacts and is committed to developing creativity and innovation in education.
- 4.8 The Arts and Creative Learning Team has worked with David Cameron for 12 years, together building a strong partnership and delivering over 70 Creative Conversations. David curates, co-ordinates and facilitates the Creative Conversations and contributes to the Creative Learning Network for an agreed and very low annual fee. This partnership is highly effective and ensures Creative Conversations provide exceptional value for money, attracting speakers on the strength of David's networks and Creative Conversations' reputation.
- 4.9 Creative Conversations are always well attended. They are all recorded and uploaded to the Creative Conversations YouTube Channel with film clips and challenge questions for schools to use in CLPL and in-service days.

Awarding Grants using External Funding

- 4.10 To date, Drake, NYCoS and the Real David Cameron have been paid on submission of an invoice and approval of a Waiver. Due to the highly specialised nature of the work and the funding agreements with Creative Scotland and Education Scotland, open recruitment and/or three quotes is not realistic. Therefore, awarding a grant to these three organisations formalises arrangements, is open to scrutiny and is financially compliant.

- 4.11 The grants would be entered on the Council's Grants Register and would be paid on production of an invoice for the agreed amount with a Grant Number attached. The grants would be agreed and reviewed annually and would only be awarded on the basis of external funding being secured. Should the Council no longer receive the external funding, the grants would not be awarded to the three organisations.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Formalise a grant award of up to £30,000 per year to Drake Music and up to £60,000 per year to NYCoS for the continued partnership delivery of YMI.
- 5.2 Formalise a grant aware of up to £12,000 per year to The Real David Cameron for the continued delivery of Creative Conversations and the development of the Creative Learning Network.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 6.2 The amounts recommended as grants represent value for money and have been subject to comparison with other organisations, none of whom can deliver the required activity as per the Funding Agreements with the Council's external funders.
- 6.3 Making a three year grant award to Drake Music, NYCoS and the Real David Cameron will be:
- 6.3.1 up to £30,000 to Drake Music annually
 - 6.3.2 up to £60,000 to NYCoS annually
 - 6.3.3 up to £12,000 to The Real David Cameron annually
 - 6.3.4 covered in full by the YMI grant and the CLN grant to City of Edinburgh Council
 - 6.3.5 subject to the Council receiving external funding
 - 6.3.6 reviewed annually every year for 3 years
 - 6.3.7 entered onto the Council's Grants Register

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 There are no adverse impacts arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 7.2 Learners and Teachers consistently provide positive feedback on the YMI programmes. This is used in case studies and submitted as part of Evaluation reports to Creative Scotland.

- 7.3 Practitioners locally, regionally and nationally provide regular positive feedback on Creative Conversations which have been described as sector leading. Other local authorities and national organisations have adopted a similar approach. Leaders and Practitioners site Creative Conversations as the catalyst for strategic and operational actions.
- 7.4 Delivering a blended programme of in-person and online Creative Conversations helps reduce carbon emissions for participants outwith Edinburgh. The You Tube channel helps reach a wider audience and provides greater sustainability following in-person events

8. Background reading/external references

N/A

9. Appendices

N/A