

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Notice of Decision



Author:	Philip Gilbert
For Decision or Information	Decision
Date received*:	28.10.16
Ref*:	2016.050

TITLE: TACKLING HATE CRIME - HEARTSTONE STORY MODULES 2016 – EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This funding will contribute to the development of learning resources which will be used in ten schools in Nottinghamshire commencing in January 2017 enabling teachers to have difficult and sensitive discussions with children which can lead to change in attitudes in respect of hate crime.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g. report or business case)

HEARTSTONE is a national non-profit organisation, which produces story in 3 different formats – fiction, photo documentary and historically based stories - which challenge racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and build contact, communication and understanding across different nationalities, cultures, races and backgrounds.

The project (1) supports victims of prejudice/intolerance, (2) challenges perpetrators and (3) raises awareness of the 'silent majority'.

The project is designed to reach children at the most impressionable age, get them to question ideas and commonly held perceptions and to see there may be more than one side to a story. The project reduces isolation and emphasises the common human experience.

It has a long track record in this area and the first phase of the project with schools was funded by the Home Office and Dept. for Education in 2000 with a major grant under the dual heading of Citizenship and Literacy. This shaped the work in education which has been in place since that time.

Funding for this project will provide digital resources for teachers in ten schools across Nottinghamshire who will use it to discuss and address hate crime.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (please include if is it capital or revenue or both. What the split is and the totals being requested. Is this a virement/ something already budgeted for or something that requires additional funding. Are there any savings that can be offered up/or achieved)

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle the portfolio holder for Nottinghamshire County Council's Community Safety Partnership has also agreed to provide £5k funding toward this project. In addition, it is understood that a local private company has made a verbal offer to provide an additional £5k from April 2017.



STORY MODULES
2016 NOTTINGHAM 2

Signature:
Chief Finance Officer



Date: 29.11.16

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Is any of the supporting information classified as non public or confidential information**?	Yes		No	✓
If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**				

DECISION:

The Commissioner is requested to:

- Approve the £5,000 revenue funding for this project for 2016/17, one year only.

OFFICER APPROVAL

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:



Date:

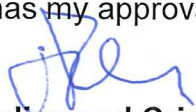
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Chief Executive**DECLARATION:**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

30/11/16

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

HEARTSTONE STORY MODULES 2016 – DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WITH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Heartstone

HEARTSTONE is a national non-profit organisation, which produces story in 3 different formats – fiction, photodocumentary and historically based story - which challenge racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and build contact, communication and understanding across different nationalities, cultures, races and backgrounds.

The organisation has built a reputation since its formation in 1990 for the work which is focussed on children and young people in all communities. The project (1) supports victims of prejudice/intolerance, (2) challenges perpetrators and (3) raises awareness of the 'silent majority'. It is a powerful project designed to reach children at the most impressionable age, get them to question ideas and commonly held perceptions and see there may be more than one side to a story. The project reduces isolation and emphasises the common human experience. It has a long track record in this area and the first phase of the project with schools was funded by the Home Office and Dept for Education in 2000 with a major grant under the dual heading of Citizenship and Literacy. This shaped the work in education which has been in place since that time.

This project starts with reading a book, 'The Heartstone Odyssey', which deals with the issues through a 'Harry Potter' type story, highly engaging and addictive and now involving schoolchildren in Years 5, 6 and 7 in authorities throughout the UK. It has been endorsed at national level through the Home Office and National Policing as a practical easily implemented project for schools enabling difficult and sensitive discussions to take place which can lead to change in attitudes. The book and the accompanying project has a similarly long track record in this context. It was at the centre of an exhibition event in 2000, when Heartstone was selected to represent the UK to mark the UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban. At that time, the Dept for Education funding allowed the book to go into almost all teachers' centres and libraries across the UK. In the current time, it has reached the attention of Barrie Osborne, producer of the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy of movies, who wants to take it to both big and small screens and as a result of his involvement, Heartstone has secured the involvement of Sir Derek Jacobi who has become the organisation's Patron. The project and Heartstone have also just been added to the Ministerial and Social Policy Makers Best Practice list.

Alongside the book, three photodocumentary stories produced by Heartstone relate to the real life locations and characters in the story – 'Chandra's London', 'Chandra's India' and 'Without Frontiers'. Over the years, these have been presented in high profile locations eg. London's South Bank and Edinburgh's City Arts Centre, and in the current project, 'Chandra's London' is being exhibited as a series of installations on the London Underground, the most recent launch took place on July 18 at Whitechapel Station with Sir Derek present as special guest.

You can see images from the Whitechapel event at our facebook site at :

www.facebook.com/heartstoneodyssey

Heartstone in Nottinghamshire

The current project is taking place with 10 schools reaching Years 5 and 6 across Nottinghamshire and is centred on the book and the 3 linked photostories as described above. We would like to propose the following extension which will take advantage of the opportunities it has created and respond to what is being asked for by the participating schools:

- Development of the digital resources as detailed below;
- A further block of schools covering all ages from 9-16 where the new resources can be piloted;
- In the process, establishing Nottinghamshire as a growing centre for the national Heartstone initiative.

Project Update:

From the meeting held on Friday 14th October with representatives of the 10 primary schools participating in the Heartstone Odyssey project in Nottinghamshire reaching Years 5 and 6, one of the needs identified related to the photodocumentary section of Heartstone's story resource. It is this need which has led to the presentation of this proposal.

The schools currently have access to 15 printed exhibition images drawn from the 3 photostories directly connected with 'The Heartstone Odyssey' book, both together providing them with the story input on which the project is centred. We are seeking a major partner to (1) make this a digital resource and (2) extend the access to images drawn from 3 additional Heartstone photostories which are particularly relevant and will address some of the specific issues raised, similarly providing the starting point for discussion/debate. By making this resource available on digital technology, it will allow images to be projected in the classroom, and downloaded as small high quality prints for use by the children/young people in their work and to be incorporated into their exhibitions. These are a practical mechanism through which the rest of the school and its surrounding community can be reached with the work taking place within each class thus ensuring a wider spread. The question of whether the images could be made accessible in this way has been raised by teachers participating in the current project and this proposal is for the purpose of developing this resource, the new '**Heartstone Story Modules**', in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council and other relevant organisations in the county.

If this can be achieved and in a timescale which will allow its announcement at the House of Commons event taking place on November 15, a unique and timely opportunity to secure profile at a national level, it will be the start of development of a resource with major potential for use with schools nationwide as described below.

What will be produced

The 'Story Modules' need to be developed with the new computer programme which we have identified for this purpose ie. images need to be incorporated (approx. 200 for each Module), new text written to reflect the current day issues and concerns and teachers' notes produced.

The three photostories being used for this new 'Story Module' resource to be used alongside the book are described briefly below:

1. Stories from the Balkans – covering the period immediately post 'ethnic cleansing' in Kosovo/Bosnia in 2000/1. Heartstone was invited to join the British contingent of KFOR/SFOR. The photostory presents everyday life in locations where hatred/intolerance for religious, ethnic division and historical reasons had taken hold and its aftermath as well as the role of international peacekeepers. The photostory international acclaim and was presented at both the House of Commons and the European Parliament in Brussels;
2. Faces of Kabul – Heartstone was invited to join ISAF's British contingent in 2003, in the period post 9/11, to document a period of major social change in the country. The story presented the men, women and children of Afghanistan as ordinary human beings in everyday situations, the role of peacekeepers and, as with all Heartstone stories, designed to build empathy and understanding. It was used to address racism/Islamophobia rising across the UK at the time and achieved worldwide acclaim leading to presentations at locations such as the British Library;
3. Testimony – Heartstone was invited to cover the 2005 60th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The photostory of the camp as it was at the time presented together with single page testimonies of UK survivors was a powerful concept and led to funding from the Scottish Government for its development as an exhibition, subsequently presented in numerous prestigious locations and visited by then Prime Minister Gordon Brown and several Scottish First Ministers. The story deals with anti-Semitism, RGT intolerance, homophobia and other forms of intolerance as embodied in the story of Auschwitz and what happened there.

The three stories, although historical, have particular relevance today since they cover specific hate crime issues and with the historical separation, make it easier to confront difficult subjects such as refugees, the rise in hate crime post Brexit and other related issues without needing to touch on a controversial theme such as Syria. As with the book, the use of these stories allows schools to be 'proactive' in relation to dealing with intolerance rather than having to be 'reactive', dealing with incidents as they occur. The visual method using photodocumentary ensures it can be used with age groups stretching from 9-16 – what is done and the depth to which discussion is taken is dependent on the age group involved, another reason for this resource being funded in 2000 by the DFE.

As with the current project, the extended resource will facilitate the following:

- Raising discussion/debate with children/young people, defining 'hate crime' and raising awareness including greater understanding of the role of media in reporting events, how visual imagery in the world around us influences ideas/opinions;
- enabling young victims to talk about personal experiences using the stories as the vehicle ie. supporting victims;

- understanding reasons behind intolerant actions – challenging perpetrators by understanding motivations, making their actions less attractive to peers, providing an alternative route to build self esteem and identity;
- discussing methods of early intervention, safe routes to report identified including nominating appropriate adults, developing peer support groups;
- using specific images to develop role play to allow participants to put themselves in the shoes of victim/perpetrator/bystander and explore actions in different scenarios;
- providing opportunity to invite community representatives from different backgrounds and agencies;
- producing the Heartstone Charter, their new code of 'right' and 'wrong' which they will have agreed upon;
- creating an exhibition as a joint activity incorporating Heartstone images and their own work to express ideas/experiences, to be presented in a location eg. the school corridor or lobby, facilitating reach to the rest of the school;
- undertaking one presentation at least for the rest of the school and invited family/community members.

This project will also have a valuable role to play given the reduced number of police officers available to go into schools. It will complement and extend whatever input there can be from this direction.

The Story Module resource will also enable different classes across a year group to have slightly different elements to their respective projects but all participating eg. all classes read 'The Heartstone Odyssey', but have a different Story Module each to complement the fictional story. Their project culminates in a joint exhibition sharing what has happened in each class.

Older age groups

There is also a further benefit. These stories all complement Heartstone's fictional story for the 9-12's but also now allow extension to older age groups in their own right to provide a continuous input on the theme of challenging hate crime which is easily incorporated into the curriculum stretching from Year 5 to 11 ie. throughout primary and secondary school. At present, the project stops at Year 7.

Local Issues

They will also further help schools in addressing some of the local issues they face directly eg. as described at the meeting on October 14, some children being withdrawn from school when a visit to the Mosque was being undertaken and other incidents. The schools taking part at present are at the 'coal face' of dealing with incidents of intolerance and what is being produced is a credit to the

imaginations and creativity of the teachers involved. This is why we feel this project is timely and could result in a resource of significant value not just to Nottinghamshire but across the UK. With the 3 stories covering anti-Semitism, Gypsy/Roma/Traveller issues, homophobia, Islamophobia and intolerance connected with historical, religious, ethnic, and other divisions, what will be created is a unique resource covering hate crime in multiple facets.

Original use of this resource and need for update

It is worth noting, the resource combination being produced here was created in the initial development phase for Heartstone in 2000. Funding was received from the Home Office and DFE to create 'Story Modules' alongside the book 'The Heartstone Odyssey' under a Citizenship and Literacy heading. The Story Module resource was abandoned in 2008 as updated IT meant schools were no longer able to use it.

This project will update this resource allowing use on current computers and include production of revised notes to reflect current day issues/concerns,

Application across the County

The new Story Module resource will be provided to the existing schools allowing them to use the images in the classroom both for projection to facilitate class discussion and downloading/printing images + narrative text for use in their own individual exhibitions.

The project also includes extension to a new group of 10 schools across the County from February/March 2017 onwards to include the older age groups to Year 10/11. This could involve either 10 secondary schools or 3 secondary schools and feeder primaries.

Training

The project includes 2 training sessions for the teachers on use of the three stories in the classroom to complement and extend their current programme with The Heartstone Odyssey resource, one at the start and one midway to share what has happened and provide additional guidance.

Monitoring and evaluation

The project will include monitoring, as with the current project, to ensure schools are progressing as intended leading to production of a report incorporating the evaluations and feedback of the Nottinghamshire schools to be circulated nationwide to facilitate development of the project across the UK from the start of the new academic year in Autumn 2017.

Conference event

It is hoped additional funding working with partners in the County can be secured for the staging of a major conference event at the end of the summer term or early Autumn term 2017 to highlight this project to new authorities, to the Home Office, Dept for Education and DCLG.

A performance event for the current programme is already in place scheduled for February to take place at the Mansfield Theatre which will bring together the 10 primary schools currently taking part. It is clear from the training session on February 14th, there is great anticipation from amongst the children for this event and this could be used to further highlight the Story Module extension and bring new partners to the project.

A Base in Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire will therefore have helped to pioneer an approach which can be used by schools throughout the country at a time of heightened need in relation to hate crime. A consistent, easily incorporated school intervention to address this issue with all ages from 9-16 incorporating community outreach and a national network currently does not exist and will have been created through this project. This is only possible as a result of the outstanding work which is currently being undertaken by the existing schools through whom the request has come for digital resources as being created in this project extension.

The project is closely aligned with the challenging hate crime objectives at central Government level and therefore can be presented as a project to be considered for national extension following this development initiative. Thus, incorporated into the project will be the concept of 'Heartstone Story Module' development being based in the County.

To reflect this, the resources produced will acknowledge the partnership with Nottinghamshire with appropriate logos and other branding at this initial stage. The evaluation notes produced will be directly from the schools participating, thus acknowledging the part they are playing in trialling the resources.

With the 'Heartstone Story Modules' base in Nottinghamshire, this will allow additional funding to be secured from new companies, trusts and other funding partners which will further benefit the county.

Sustainability

One of the aspects emphasised at the Friday 14th meeting was the intention to ensure the project becomes sustainable. It is delivered by the class teachers themselves, not by an outside agency, thus allowing the project to be repeated with subsequent classes. This was welcomed but again highlighted the value of the complementary resource as being developed here.

Timing

Work on this project would need to start immediately as it will involve detailed programming, writing input and contact with schools.

The intention is to have sufficient initial development work undertaken by the time of the House of Commons event on November 15 when the Heartstone Odyssey is being showcased to be able to announce this development programme from this event.

Added value

Undertaking this project at this time and aligned with the House of Commons event will allow a further potential extension. Heartstone is currently working with Transport for London, who are creating exhibition installations on the London Underground using images from the Heartstone 'Chandra's London' story. Following the success of this programme, which is also being presented as part of the event at the House of Commons, TFL are providing introductions to their national partners for extension into different parts of the UK. The project is titled 'Travel Pass' and the images are produced with special access connected to each new location featured. The existence of the project described in this proposal would make it feasible to add this additional concept bringing new partners, funding and profile to the county and helping it reach out to the wider community as is happening in London.

Finally, creating a 'centre' for the new Heartstone Story Module resource and a continued programme with the schools piloting new resources as they are produced would also allow new funding to be secured for additional events and conferences.

BUDGET

Development cost – programming, scanning, writing and production of 3 Story Modules

(each carrying approximately 200 images)

Creation of packs for 20 schools each including 3 Story Modules = 60 Story Modules

(10 existing schools and 10 reaching older age groups)

Training sessions x2 for schools participating – one at start of project and one midway

Support for project and securing final evaluations/feedback from

which report will be produced for circulation:

£20,000

A detailed budget breakdown can be provided as required.

Cost of conference event and February performance event to be secured from other source