

**Request to tender and bid for further external funding for  
Crèches 4 The Community and Normanton Child Safety  
Projects****RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To agree and approve this request to tender for further Learning & Skills Council (LSC) and European Social Fund (ESF) co-financing of approximately £240,000 for Crèches 4 the Community (C4C) project.
- 2.1 To agree and approve this request to bid for external funding of approximately £210,000 through Big Lottery to expand the Normanton Child Safety (NCSP) to become citywide.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The council is the accountable body for the Childcare and Family Learning Service. Both these projects are managed within this team.
- 2.2 C4C has worked across the city since July 2002, delivering basic childcare training and raising awareness of crèche work as a flexible employment opportunity. The project has been funded totally through LSC/ESF co-financing since this date. Funding ceased on 31 March 2007 and the project has sufficient funds to continue until 31 March 2008. A new tendering round for ESF funding will be launched in the autumn and in order for this successful project to continue, new funding must be secured.
- 2.3 NCSP has been successfully piloted in the Normanton regeneration area, using URBAN II and SRB6 funding secured through the External Funding Unit within Derby City Partnership. The project works with families with children up to the age of eight, by delivering training workshops and providing free safety equipment. This funding ceases on 31 December 2007 and it is proposed to bid for funding through Big Lottery to roll the project out citywide.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 C4C has been successful in reaching vulnerable adults who have not engaged in learning for some time and who have a fear of learning. The project has worked with over 400 people over the last 5 years. 79% have completed courses and achieved accreditation in basic childcare with 43% moving on to further learning or employment opportunities. Some of our success stories include learners moving on to NVQ3 in Childcare, access to nursing programmes, and permanent employment in childcare settings across the city.

- 3.2 The project meets government targets in
- Contributing to a reduction in unemployment by helping learners into sustainable work opportunities through learning and accreditation.
  - Social inclusion - working with community groups and schools to recruit learners from disadvantaged backgrounds or people from low skilled employment and/or ethnic minority backgrounds to participate in learning.
  - Through the learning programme, and support and guidance received, learners have greater confidence and increased career aspirations with the view to progressing onto further learning opportunities or employment.
  - Learners are given the support and opportunity to progress from introductory sessions in childcare to accreditation, qualifications and pathways into employment.
- 3.3 The project always has a waiting list of people who would like to do our courses. Over the last 5 years, we have built successful partnerships and relationships with other organisations, community and voluntary groups and schools. We work with Jobcentre Plus, Adult Social Services, the Youth Service and schools to engage hard to reach and disaffected young people – some of who are NEET, lone parents and people with learning and language difficulties.
- 3.4 The NCSP project has already exceeded its target to reach 300 families within the Normanton regeneration area during the lifetime of the project. From referrals through the local Children’s Centres, the health teams and self-referrals, a need has been identified to widen the project to all disadvantaged areas across the city.
- 3.5 Successful partnerships have been developed with the Phoenix and Warmer Homes projects and the Derby City Council Community Safety Team.
- 3.6 The project is developing links with local schools and has created activity workshops for children in school aged 5 – 8. It is proposed to include the whole primary phase in any funding application.
- 3.7 The project has developed an active volunteer programme to engage local residents in all project activities and develop shared ownership of the project with the communities it works in.
- 3.8 The project manager has extensive experience in managing externally funded projects and has achieved successful audit and Ofsted inspections. There are robust monitoring and reporting systems and procedures in place. Both projects operate quality assurance procedures and where necessary policies and procedures have been developed.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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4. Both these projects have been funded through external sources. The only other options would be:
- a. Core fund the projects.
  - b. Close the projects and incur redeployment and redundancy costs.

<p><b>For more information contact:</b> Libby Partridge / 01332 71115 / libby.partridge@derby.gov.uk</p> <p><b>List of appendices:</b> Appendix 1 - Implications</p>
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<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 The financial implications would be to not apply for funding which would mean staff with long service would need to be re-deployed or made redundant.
- 1.2 Successful funding applications will bring in sufficient funds to continue 2 very successful projects for a further 2 years.

**Personnel**

- 2.1 Successful applications will secure existing posts for a further 2 years.
- 2.2 Unsuccessful applications will result in redeployment and redundancy as explained above.
- 2.3 Growing the childcare workforce continues to be a government target and successful learners will move into further childcare training or into the childcare workforce

**Equalities impact**

- 3.1 A successful tender for C4C funding will allow the continuation of the project working to engage hard to reach people and change their outlook on learning. It will ensure that gaps left by the upskilling of childcare workers – another national agenda – will be filled with quality staff.
- 3.2 A successful bid application to roll out the NCSP citywide will ensure equality of access to safety training and equipment for all disadvantaged families within the city.

**Corporate priorities and plans for improvement**

- 4.1 The proposal supports the Council's priorities of **supporting everyone in learning and achieving** and **helping us all to be healthy, active and independent**.
- 4.2 The proposal underpins the Council's plans for improvement including **improving communication and engagement**, specifically improving local partnership working, and **delivering efficiency and value for money**. The robust monitoring systems and adherence to Council procedures such as procurement ensure that both projects provide excellent value for money.