

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: James Carrick, VRU Project & Policy Officer

Subject: Collyhurst & Moston Boxing Club – Behaviour Change and School Attendance Improvement.

Type of decision: Budget/financial

Deputy Mayor’s decision		Chief Officer’s decision	X
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In all case this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

The decision is that:

The GM VRU is seeking to award £4,990 via a grant funding agreement to Collyhurst & Moston Boxing club in Oct 2024 to fund activity for the remainder of the 24/25 academic year.

The VRU has previously awarded a total of £15,000 split at £10,000 in 2022/23 and £5000 in 2023/24 to Collyhurst and Moston Boxing Club for the same programme. The total amount awarded to Collyhurst and Moston Boxing Club following this Decision Notice will be £19,990.

The reasons for the decision are:

The Collyhurst and Moston Boxing has designed and delivered a behaviour and attitude intervention curriculum for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who are at risk in Greater Manchester Primary Schools. Building upon this work, the Collyhurst and Moston Boxing club wants to consolidate its offer to primary schools in the remainder of the academic year. This will mean providing bespoke intervention programmes agreed between the school and this boxing club. The intervention programme will take place on the school site and will involve no off-site activity.

The VRU wishes to fund Collyhurst and Moston Boxing Club to support the delivery of this project in 2024/25. As the Collyhurst and Moston boxing club engages in a range of activities to support young people, the VRU has undertaken a due diligence exercise and has highlighted areas where action is needed to ensure compliance with HSE, Safeguarding and Fire Safety regulations.

What's the activity?

For the academic year 2024 to 2025 the VRU will contribute to funding a programme for primary schools, where levels of social deprivation and disadvantage are high. Specifically, this will target persistent absentees and those at risk of exclusion, in year 6.

A non-contact boxing programme and fitness activities to increase better being secondary ready because attitudes are positive to learning and working with peers from various backgrounds.

VRU funding will increase capacity to provide a community offer for secondary aged pupils who have a clearly identified need. This will take place in the Boxing Club.

VRU funding will help with the management of monitoring and evaluation costs. This funding would cover the following gaps and barriers which include;

- Year 2 tracking of Year 7 students at Manchester Communication Academy to evaluate deeper and long-term impact.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of new 2024/25 young people
- Increasing capacity (delivery & equipment) within our community referral only programme to accommodate those who are at the highest risk of school exclusion linked to behaviour, violence and or those on the periphery of crime

What is the intended impact of this project?

A reduction in persistent absence and fewer exclusions will have a strong influence on the well-being of pupils because:

- More pupils will be in lessons so that less time is wasted catching up
- More pupils will be better equipped to manage their mental health individually and better equipped to handle working relationships with peers
- More pupils better placed to deal with stressful situations because they are better informed to process their feelings and to deal with decisions made by others.

This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:

This programme of work will impact the following GM Strategies

- All four priorities in the [Standing Together plan](#)
- All priorities of the [Greater Than Violence Strategy](#).
- The [Gender Based Violence Strategy](#)

Financial comments:

£4990.00 will be funded to Collyhurst & Moston Boxing Club out of the GM VRU's 2024/25 Serious Violence core Home Office grant funding (Education Budget Line)

Legal comments:

As noted above, a GFA between Collyhurst and Moston Boxing Club and the GMCA/GMVRU will be drafted with the support of the Manchester City Council Legal service to award the £4,990.

Grants are excluded from the definition of a Contract in the Contract Procurement Rules, and therefore are not subject to the same requirements, but are now affected by the Subsidy Control Act and as such, a subsidy analysis has been undertaken by the VRU Team.

Legal advice has been sought from the Shared Legal Service on the preparation of the Grant Agreement and the Agreement is being drafted currently by the Commercial Legal team.

The GM VRU/GMCA will need to seek further Legal and Procurement advice for any future funding to Collyhurst & Moston Boxing Club.

Procurement comments:

No Procurement concerns. Small grant to VCSE sector organisation. As this process relates to a grant funding arrangement and the process is consistent with earlier phases of the same project, there are no specific procurement concerns. Commissioners should ensure that relevant Subsidy Control processes are followed.

Risk Assessment:

VRU has conducted due diligence to ensure the provider complies with high level safeguarding and H & S requirements. The schools involved have their own safeguarding policies as do the boxing club. no risks perceived. The VRU has undertaken an initial risk assessment: this now focuses on actions that need doing. Staff must be aware of the basic fire safety risk assessment advice issued by the Home Office. The funding has been allocated according to existing procurement rules, with support from legal and Information Governance. Due diligence has been carried out by the VRU's Education Lead, who has scoped this with Collyhurst & Moston Boxing Club. There are no known wider risks been identified.

Under the Subsidy Control Act, GMCA will need to demonstrate that they have considered whether this grant funding is considered a subsidy. To assist, in view of the nature of the project, it could be said that the recipient is not an enterprise, they do not offer goods and services on a market, funding is provided for Collyhurst & Moston Boxing Club to deliver a non-contact boxing programme in primary schools, and the financial assistance will not have an effect on competition or investment that is more than incidental or hypothetical. Accordingly, the grant funding would not be considered to be a subsidy.

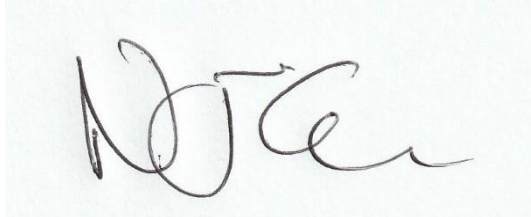
Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

All activity takes place on school premises and within school time. Both the boxing club and schools have their own strict safeguarding policies and procedures which entirely cover this activity.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:

As above, however it is not anticipated that vulnerable adults will engage with this programme, as it is aimed at 11-16 year olds.

Agreed by Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire



Signed:

Date: 10th October 2024

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer

Signed:

Date:

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

Only required for a Deputy Mayor Decision on amounts of £50,000+

Signed:

Date:

Contact Officer:

James Carrick- james.carrick@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk