

DECISION NOTICE

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

Subject: GMVRU Funding to Barton Moss Primary School for VRU Literacy Project
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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 £3,000 via a grant agreement to Barton Moss Primary School (Prestolee Multi Academy Trust) in Salford to take part in the VRU's literacy project.
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The reasons for the decision are:
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<p>The VRU's Education Lead has proposed the literacy project for a number of reasons. Data from the #BeeWell survey shows that too few young people read for pleasure. We are aware from DfE and Ofsted reports that too many youngsters are struggling readers whose reading skills are at an early stage. Not enough young people have the opportunity to borrow books to read at home with a parent or carer. We know that the quality of young people's writing and their quality of life improves when they read more and read often. [We saw in 2022 and 2023, the positive and welcome effect of providing youngsters with readers that talked to the Equalities agenda]. The more pupils are widely read, the better their outcomes socially and well-being wise, as well as academically.</p>

<p>Therefore, the VRU's Education Lead is interested in providing young people in primary schools with readers (fiction and non-fiction) that would help them talk about and reflect upon those values which align with GM and the GM VRU, for instance, making choices, decision making, taking responsibility, community and teamwork and treating others as they would wish to be treated.</p>

<p>GMVRU has identified three GM primary schools that have expressed a firm interest in choosing a selection of fiction and non-fiction books that pupils could read, borrow and take home, and read with an older family</p>

member, that had titles and content linked to choices, responsibility, consequences etc.

KPI's of this funding (to be written into the grant agreement) will include:

1. Increase in Reading for Pleasure: At least 90% of targeted disadvantaged pupils report an increase in reading for pleasure, measured through surveys or reading records.
2. Family Reading Engagement: At least 90% of targeted pupils regularly read at home with a family member.
3. Character Immersion: All targeted pupils participate in a 'Day in the Life' experience, where they role-play as a book character, demonstrating awareness of responsibility and consequences. Feedback on engagement and learning outcomes gathered from pupils, parents and teachers.
4. Reading Age Improvement: At least 95% of targeted pupils improve their reading age by a minimum of 6 months within the programme's duration, measured through standardized reading checks and engagement in literacy in their school's personal development curriculum.

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:

£3000.00 will be funded to Barton Moss Primary School (Prestolee Multi Academy Trust) 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 Prestolee Multi Academy Trust and the GMCA/GMVRU will be drafted with the support of the Manchester City Council Legal service to award the £3,000.

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 Prestolee Multi Academy Trust.

Procurement comments:

No Procurement concerns. Small grant to Academy School. The grant recipient will become the Contracting Authority for the purpose of administering the funds, and it is assumed that they will do so in a manner compliant with their own internal rules. Commissioners should ensure that relevant Subsidy Control processes are followed.

Risk Assessment:

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 the school's headteacher. 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 Prestolee Multi Academy Trust to take part in the VRU Reading Project pilot, 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.

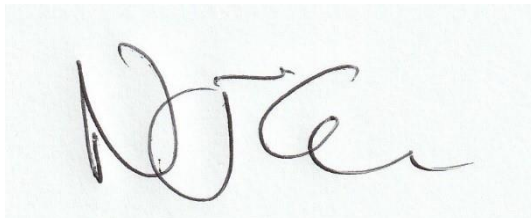
Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

Safeguarding of children is paramount to violence reduction work, both as potential victims and perpetrators of serious violence. Barton Moss Primary is a school therefore all appropriate legal safeguarding procedures are in place and will remain so throughout the life of the funding period.

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

As above.

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:

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