

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 7th February 2008
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy
SUBJECT: Application for Twinning Grant
WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to give details of Warrington Road Nursery School application being made to the Twinning Grant Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the following grant be awarded

(1) £3000 to Warrington Road Nursery School

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In April 1996, Halton Borough Council set up a Grant Fund to assist in enabling all members of the community to access and gain benefit from the Council's International Links.

3.2 Since 1996, a number of groups have accessed the fund to undertake exchange visits to Marzahn-Hellersdorf in Germany; Leiria in Portugal; Usti-nad-Labem in the Czech Republic; and Tongling City in China, including the Halton Youth Service; St. Chad's School, Halton Junior Football Team and Fairfield High School who have hosted teachers and pupils from Tongling previously. These links have resulted in a number of reciprocal visits from each town.

3.3 Participants in previous exchanges have found that the benefits of learning about another culture and language are immense. A wide range of activity in the Borough has been facilitated by the provision of grant aid and has given an opportunity to those who would not otherwise be able to participate.

3.4 The application received from Warrington Road Nursery School requests support for 7 members of staff to visit Tongling between the 20th – 30th March 2008. There will be 1 Halton Headteacher, (Warrington Road Nursery School) 1 Governor (Warrington Road Children's centre), 2 teachers (St Mary's Primary School) with 1 educational psychologist and 2 members of the Learning Support Services team travelling to Tongling.

3.5 The visit will further develop a friendship with St Mary's Primary School (Castlefields) and their newly twinned primary in Tongling (Shiyan Primary School) and to assist in developing an English language

programme for these schools. It will also explore aspects of hearing loss in primary aged children and explore aspects of child psychology including developmental delay and support offered in the twin schools.

- 3.6 By 2010, all Primary schools will need to be twinned with an international school and Halton schools without an established twin are keen to look at our 4 twinned towns to develop a partnership. After this trip to Tongling, there will be information cascade and dissemination sharing good practice amongst schools that are in the process of developing such links.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The application is in line with the borough's European Strategy, in particular, the promotion of international links, which seeks to offer the opportunity to participate to the whole population of Halton.
- 4.2 The application will also make a major contribution to the Children and Young People's Local Strategic Partnership key priority.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost of the exchange will be £10,360 and given pressures on the town-twinning budget it is proposed that the grant awarded is in line with previous requests. If this request for £3000 were to be approved, £2890 would remain in the budget. This award would represent a grant of £428 per participant.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Support of this application will make an important contribution to the Children and Young People's Local Strategic Partnership key priority, in that it will expand Key Outcome 4 of the Children Act by enabling young people to develop a greater understanding of other cultures and society.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Measures are in place to minimise risks to the delivery of the project. For example, the as part of the terms and conditions of grant applicants are required to complete a risk assessment proforma.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.2 The project focuses on promoting transnational relations with one of Halton's Twin Towns.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Application	Municipal Building	Eleanor Carter