



North Kensington Inclusion Pilot

Children, Young People
and Families Forum

17th November 2021

Introductions

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- Nick Orgovanyi, Grenfell Partnerships Team

North Kensington Inclusion Pilot

RBKC is seeking to grant fund a local voluntary and community sector partner to deliver support, specialist advice and advocacy on education-based matters for parents, carers and their children.

These slides provide details on:

- background to this work
- scope of work
- expected outcomes
- funding and duration
- how to apply

Background

In recent years there has been significant national and local focus on exclusion from school and the impact that has on outcomes for Children and Young People. Earlier this year we developed a Bi-Borough School Inclusion Strategy that sets out our ambitions to:

- Reduce the number of children and young people being removed from mainstream education as a result of their behaviour.
- Address factors that lead to specific groups of children and young people being disproportionately affected by exclusion.
- Drive a whole system commitment to work with children and young people at risk of exclusion in a trauma informed way.
- Improve outcomes for children and young people who are excluded.
- Improve reintegration rates from alternative provision back into mainstream

In parallel to this work, exclusions was identified as a priority by members of the community affected by the Grenfell Tragedy

In December 2020, as part of the Grenfell Recovery Resourcing Framework, the Leadership Team at RBKC agreed to set aside some funding for a pilot programme to promote inclusion and reduce exclusions in North Kensington. This grant opportunity forms part of that pilot.

This is a targeted project which sits alongside mainstream Council provision and aims to work collaboratively with children, parents and schools in a trauma-informed way, in recognition of the ongoing impact of the Grenfell tragedy in the local community.

Scope of work - provision of specialist advice and advocacy

To support the delivery of the aims of the Grenfell Recovery Strategy and the Bi-Borough Inclusion Strategy, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is seeking a voluntary and community sector partner to provide:

- **advice and guidance** to families in North Kensington, with a specific focus on relevant statutory responsibilities of schools, the local authority and parents/carers in respect of a permanent or fixed term exclusion.
- **advocacy support** for parents, carers and their children on education-based matters . Within this context we see advocacy as supporting and enabling people to:
 - Express their views, thoughts and concerns
 - Access information, advice and guidance
 - Where appropriate support families with meetings at school
 - Where appropriate, supporting families to put their views to school Governing bodies, and on occasion join families at Governing body meetings
- We would expect the advocate(s) and those involved in delivering the service to have **expertise in providing advocacy support and a robust understanding of exclusions and related matters in education law.**
- We expect the provider to demonstrate how they will use existing local connections to ensure this provision has maximum impact. The **provider must have a presence within North Kensington**, which we broadly define as the seven wards of Dalgarno, St Helen's, Golborne, Colville, Notting Dale, Norland and Pembridge. They must also have demonstrable experience of working with the North Kensington residents in the last 4 years and a working knowledge of the issues, challenges, strengths and networks in the community.
- Organisations with a base in North Kensington the experience and qualifications to deliver this service, **or who are in a position to host employees with the relevant experience/qualifications** are invited to submit an application for this grant.

Expected outcomes - provision of specialist advice and advocacy

As part of the overall project, it is expected that the provider will contribute to improved outcomes for families in the following areas (this list is not exhaustive):

- Decreased removal from mainstream education as a result of behaviour
- Increased reintegration back to mainstream education
- Increased understanding of local support available for families
- Increased parental engagement with the child's learning
- Increased school attendance

Specifically, the provider would:

- help parents feel supported
- help families navigate school processes
- improve communication between parents and schools
- increase parental engagement
- work to mitigate and avoid exclusions where possible
- where exclusions are unavoidable, contributing to ensuring parents and children are fully supported through the process and fully aware of their rights and future options

Funding and duration- provision of specialist advice and advocacy

It is expected that the pilot will **initially run for one year**, at which point there would be a review undertaken by the Lead Commissioner, Early Help, The Grenfell Partnerships Team and the Senior Adviser for Inclusion into how the provision is working against the key outcomes detailed on the previous slide. If the review finds the pilot is working effectively, the Council will explore options to top up the funding for a second year.

It is **anticipated that £50,000 would cover the cost of a full-time advocate in the first year**, which would be payable to the provider for the duration of the grant agreement. In addition to the annual review, termly reviews will take place to formally assess how the provision is working against the key outcomes.

It is expected that the organisations bidding for this funding will provide a clear plan for how they would implement the resource, as well as timescales for putting the resource in place. **Our aim is to have the provision running in January 2022**

How to Apply

If interested please contact dayana.kertova@rbkc.gov.uk to request an application pack which includes the following documents:

- A service specification which describes in more detail what we would like to achieve with this pilot and what we would expect from a provider.
- An application form to be completed by interested VSC organisations.
- Scoring criteria demonstrating how applications will be assessed as well as information on what a good application would look like.

Please note **the deadline to submit your complete application forms is 22 November 2021!**



Any Questions?

Background

In recent years there has been significant national and local focus on exclusion levels. The council is committed to tackling exclusions and recently developed an ambitious Inclusion Strategy which aims to:

- Reduce the number of children and young people being removed from mainstream education as a result of their behaviour.
- Address factors that lead to specific groups of children and young people being disproportionately affected by exclusion.
- Drive a whole system commitment to work with children and young people at risk of exclusion in a trauma informed way.
- Improve outcomes for children and young people who are excluded.
- Improve reintegration rates from alternative provision back into mainstream

In addition to this, we know there is significant local interest in exclusions among parents, particularly in North Kensington. The ongoing impact of the Grenfell tragedy on the local community underscores the importance of working collaboratively with children, parents and schools in a trauma-informed way.

We know that the rate of exclusion in RBKC remains high when compared to inner London and national rates. This trend is felt more keenly in North Kensington where in 2018/19, 61% of all fixed term exclusions were for residents of only four wards: Notting Dale (22%), Golborne (17%), Colville (12%) and Dalgarno (10%). This trend, alongside feedback from the community, make promoting inclusion and tackling exclusion a key priority, as reflected in the commitments made in the Grenfell Recovery resourcing framework.