



Strategic Policing and Crime Board

Date of meeting: 19 March 2019

Police and Crime Plan Priority: Building a Modern Police Service

Title: Building Blocks Update

Presented by: Mark Kenyon, Chief Finance Officer

Purpose of Paper

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the board with an update on the work being undertaken to develop the charity Building Blocks.
2. This paper is for discussion and the board is asked to support the ongoing development of the Charity.

Background

3. Building Blocks is an independent Charity that was established in 1999. From the formation of the Charity, the coordination of the Charity was undertaken by the West Midlands Police Force. In April 2016, the coordination was transferred to the Police and Crime Commissioner's office.
4. Building Blocks, as an independent organisation, has a declaration of trust. This is a legal document setting out the Charity's constitution and is registered with the Charity Commission.

Historical Activities of the Charity

5. From its formation in 1999 to early 2013, the Charity gave out grants of a low financial value to local groups. These grants were for groups to provide diversionary activities for young people in the West Midlands. These activities were to assist in preventing young people engaging in criminal activity and helping young people to have the best start in life.
6. Until November 2016 the Charity received income from mobile phone recycling companies. This was achieved by phone recycling companies, collecting unwanted phones and other equipment from Neighbourhood Police Units and paying Building Blocks sums of money in return. This source of income is no longer received by the Charity. The Charity over the years has also received

minor levels of donations from various sources including from members of the public.

7. The table below details the income and expenditure for the Charity. It can be seen that over recent financial years, the activities of the Charity has been minimal.

<i>Financial year end</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
31-Mar-18	£736	£2,014
31-Mar-17	£2,161	£30
31-Mar-16	£7,204	£780
31-Mar-15	£14,626	£1,500
31-Mar-14	£18,805	£1,501
31-Mar-13	£22,956	£55,199
31-Mar-12	£8,964	£29,552

8. The Charity's accounts are produced each year by a qualified accountant, in line with accounting standards and are considered by the trustees. These form part of the annual return for the Charity which is published on the Charity Commission's website.

Current Position of the Charity

9. There are a number of benefits, for having a Charity associated with policing in the West Midlands. For example, the Charity can be used to appropriately supplement the Commissioner's 'and crime' commissioning activities and are in line with appropriate charity governance. In recognition of these potential benefits, the Police and Crime Plan 2016 – 2020, includes an ambition to revitalise the charity.
10. As part of the revitalisation of the Charity a recruitment campaign was undertaken in 2017, to recruit three independent trustees to the Charity, including an independent chair. There were a number of applicants and the Charity was able to appoint high calibre, independent trustees with different skills and experience of working in the charity sector. The table below, details the current trustees of the Charity.

Trustee Name	Trustee Type
Emma Kelly	Independent Chair
Rahul Bissoonauth	Independent Vice Chair
Saba Kayani	Trustee (PCC's Office)
Mark Kenyon	Trustee (PCC's Office)
MaryB McGrath	Independent Trustee
Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe	Trustee (WMP)
Chief Superintendent Matthew Ward	Trustee (WMP)

- 11 The constitution of the Charity allows up to eight trustees, therefore there is currently a vacancy for one trustee.
- 12 The trustees received a day's training in October 2017, on the responsibilities of being a trustee and best practice in how a charity should operate. This was provided by an external facilitator. Trustees will commission ongoing development as appropriate.
- 13 Trustees meet at least 4 times a year and governance procedures are in line with the Charity Commission's guidance and other guidance available. For example, guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA).
- 14 The Charity, as at 31 March 2018, had £147k available in its bank account.

Building Blocks Strategy

- 15 In 2018, the trustees revised the strategy for the Charity to align with the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. The main strategy of the Charity is to stand up for young people. In particular Building Blocks' focus is to:-
 - Help give young people the opportunities they need, to contribute to society and become active citizens
 - Work to identify possible early interventions for young people to prevent them from getting into harm
 - Assist young people in providing and improving pathways into employment, education and training
 - Assist young people to gain work experience and training opportunities
 - Develop young people to make a difference in communities

Charity Activity Undertaken to March 2019

- 16 The long term aim of the Charity is to generate funds to distribute to organisations to meet the strategy of the Charity as outlined in paragraph 15. However, to obtain funding, Trustees recognise the importance of delivering projects successfully to obtain credibility as a delivery organisation. Also there is a requirement to allocate funds that have been in the Charity's bank account for a number of years to projects. Therefore the trustees, have used a proportion of the Charity's funds to distribute to organisations through different mechanisms as outlined in the following paragraphs.

Police Cadets

- 17 The Charity allocated £5k to West Midlands Police Cadets for activities undertaken in the summer of 2018. This was for 36 cadets to attend Ackers Trust to undertake adventure training and included money for transport. Cadets took part in activities such as zip wires and a jungle assault course as they continue to build confidence and team working skills.

- 18 Trustees of Building Blocks recognise the alignment of police cadets with the purpose of the Charity. Therefore they will consider funding future activities of the cadets, dependent on the particular project.

Bursaries to Organisations

- 19 This involved the Charity supporting the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in the submission of grant applications for external funding to support projects that will support young people. This was coordinated by the External Funding Manager who currently works jointly for the PCC's office and Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council (BVSC). The External Funding Manager delivered workshops to organisations from the VCSE sector on how organisations should apply for external funding, including best practice. Following the workshops if the organisations developed a bid and submitted it to a funding organisation they would receive a £400 bursary from Building Blocks. This is provided the grant application is in line with the objectives of Building Blocks. Trustees agreed to support up to 15 bursaries.
- 20 To date, 5 organisations have been provided with a bursary from Building Blocks. In total, the 5 organisations have applied for over £40,000 of grant and at least 2 of the applications, with a total value of approximately £25,000, have been successful. Therefore by Building Blocks spending £2,000, it has helped organisations in the West Midlands receive £25,000 in grants.
- 21 Further grant application workshops are planned to be delivered in the coming months where bursaries will be provided to the VCSE from the Charity.
- 22 The bursary scheme demonstrates, by Building Blocks helping organisations in their capability, there is potential to lever external funding to fund projects in the West Midlands.

The Challenge Fund

- 23 Trustees of the Charity launched the Challenge Fund, in October 2018 with a maximum award of £25k per project. The fund is to support organisations with innovative projects that will make a real difference to young people in the West Midlands. Over 25 expressions of interest were received to the fund and Trustees invited 4 shortlisted organisations to present their proposal to the Trustees in January 2019.
- 24 Trustees decided to fund 2 of the shortlisted proposals. Details of these projects are:-
- a) A project to support 60 children, through 4 x 12 week programmes of work experience, for young people aged 16 – 24, who have a variety of additional needs. This includes children that have been impacted by a variety of challenges, including mental health diagnosis, self-harm, drug abuse, extreme poverty, sexual exploitation, drug and alcohol addiction and drug induced psychosis. The programmes, will be delivered in partnership with schools and health services, and combine employment support, skill building and vocational training with community activism.

The young people will also be supported, to achieve an accredited qualification.

- b) A project to co-ordinate character enrichment workshops across a number of Birmingham schools. The workshops will promote skills and help prepare children for employment. The workshops will cover a wide range of development activities including communication, leadership, time management and goal setting. The project will include the installation of the Character Measurement System (CMS) across a number of schools with each student having access to CMS to track and measure the activities the children take part in. The project aims to support 2,500 young people across 7 establishments.
- 25 The Charity will monitor the above projects to ensure they deliver the planned outcomes for young people. There are appropriate payment mechanisms in place, to ensure the providers are paid for services delivered.
- 26 When the 2 projects, detailed above, are concluded, trustees will assess the benefits delivered, to determine whether similar projects should be supported in the future.

External Income Strategy

- 27 The Charity needs to generate income to be sustainable in the future. This includes one-off funding for particular projects and regular income sources. As detailed already the Charity needs to gain experience and demonstrate that it is capable of delivering projects before it can apply for funding.
- 28 The Charity will continue to explore income opportunities in 2019/20.

Activities Planned for the Next 12 Months

- 29 This will include the delivery of the Challenge Fund projects and the bursary scheme.
- 30 The Charity will apply for funding streams where appropriate for projects that are in line with its objectives.

Financial Implications

- 31 Building Blocks, as an independent Charity, has its own bank account and is responsible for its own financial arrangements. Trustees of the Charity are volunteers and the Charity relies on the Commissioner's office in terms of administration and coordination. Therefore, the ongoing running cost of the Charity are minimal. As this report sets out, for the Charity to deliver against its objectives, it needs to attract funding in the medium to long term.

Legal Implications

- 32 The Charity is an independent organisation and has to comply with the legal requirements, as set out in legislation, and with the Charity Commission's guidance.

Recommendations

- 33 The board are asked to note the content of this report and the progress being made to develop the Charity.

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