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Date:

Dear Colleagues

Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) Indicative allocation

I am writing to advise you that the funding allocation for NSF related activities in your borough is **£73,647**. This funding will be included within your Local Area Agreement (LAA).

NSF is one of the DfES funding streams that will be pooled within the Children and Young People's block of your Local Area Agreement, as per Annex D, paragraph 10 of LAA Guidance for Round 3 and Refresh of Rounds 1 and 2.

Government Office for London (GOL) is keen that there should be a managed transition of this programme in to Local Area agreement arrangements.

You should note that this funding has been allocated to Voluntary and Community Sector providers with Government Office for London overseeing the management of NSF funding, through a programme titled NEETS Re- engagement Support Fund (NRSF).

I would encourage you to discuss your plans for use of this funding with the existing NRSF providers (details at Annex 1) in your area, who have strong examples of good practice and experience of delivering positive outcomes from this funding. We are particularly keen to see this funding continue to be routed directly to Voluntary and Community Sector delivery partners and for appropriate outcomes to be included within your LAA.

More information on NSF is provided at Annex 2 and a copy of an external evaluation of the programme can be accessed at: www.connexions.gov.uk . Click on the 'Practitioners site' option then choose 'NSF' from the menu on the left, followed by 'evaluation' from the expanded menu.

If you have any questions about this note you may want to discuss them with your Children's Services Adviser, alternatively I am happy to discuss any NSF specific issues with you (please see contact details at the top of this letter).

Yours faithfully,

Clive Senior

Cc: GOL LAA Children and Young People's Block Lead
GOL LAA Project Manager
GOL Education and Skills Lead

Annex 1

London Borough of Southwark

Indicative NSF allocation – £73,647

Current NSF projects in borough Grant

Community Youth Provisions Association	£38,350
Springboard Southwark	£34,600

Contact information	Project description
Community Youth Provisions Association	Seeks to re-integrate excluded and disaffected young people from BME groups into school or a suitable education / training provider. Also provides accredited computer training and support with numeracy and literacy.
Junior McDonald	
Thomas Calton Community Centre	
Alpha Street	
Peckham	
London SE15 4NX	
0207 252 8882	
Springboard Southwark	The programme has targeted and engaged disaffected young people, offering assessment, guidance and IT activities
Farhad Zad	
Springboard Southwark Trust	
821 Old Kent Road	
London SE15 1NY	
0207 639 1007	
Farhad.zad@springboard-st.org	

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND (NSF) TRANSITION TO LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS (LAAS)

Background

The Neighbourhood Support Fund is a £10 million a year DfES programme, funding community and voluntary organisations, to deliver activities and a programme of informal learning and self development for hard to reach young people aged 13-19 years, in 40 of the most deprived local authority areas. Many of the participants are under achievers, truants, care leavers or are affected by substance misuse. All are from hard to reach target groups. The aim of the programme is to re-engage young people in mainstream education, training or employment and has been independently evaluated as a successful NEETs intervention programme.

The Success of NSF

The three year evaluation of NSF carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research shows that NSF is a successful intervention which can help to address the social exclusion of hard to reach young people. More than 50,000 young people participated in the pilot phase exceeding planned targets. Of those leaving NSF 68% subsequently engaged with mainstream provision. Evidence showed that positive outcomes were sustained at least 4-6 months after leaving.

It is clear that a neighbourhood based approach, such as NSF, can contribute to raising the educational achievement of hard to reach young people by providing locally delivered, flexible learning opportunities that gain the interest and voluntary involvement of young people, many of whom have rejected alternatives.

Routing resources through projects which are based in the voluntary community sectors means that NSF can draw on local knowledge and project workers' experience of, and commitment to, providing informal support to young people in their local community.

Through NSF, provision is responsive to the needs of young people, the challenges they face and the social, economic and cultural context of individual neighbourhoods. Such diversity, coupled with a managed infrastructure, has enabled projects to develop flexible strategies which are successful in supporting and re-engaging hard to reach young people.