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CALL FOR EVIDENCE **Race on the Agenda**

DCSF Consultation on the Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme to Third Sector Organisations

Introduction

On the 29th June 2009 the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) put out a consultation to look at how they could improve their Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Grants Programme. They want to know whether the programme meets the needs of the third sector and what changes they can make to better support organisations.

ROTA will be sending a response to this consultation. Before we do this we are sending this **CALL FOR EVIDENCE** to organisations currently working with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children, young people and families. We will use this evidence, along with our in-house expertise, to produce:

- 1) A template response for smaller organisations to add-to and use to send their own response to the DCSF
- 2) A BAME response from **ROTA** to be sent to the DCSF

ROTA's template response will be sent to organisations on Monday 21st September – this gives two weeks for organisations to use it and send their own response to DCSF (the final deadline for DCSF is 5th October).

This document summarises the consultation and puts forward certain questions in relation to it. We will use your views to inform the ROTA response to the DCSF questions.

We have also attached a summary of the DCSF Third Sector Strategy (Annex A) which was published in July 2009. This illustrates the bigger picture within which the CYPF fund would operate and is therefore useful for respondents to consider alongside the consultation document. To download a full copy of the strategy please visit:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1612&external=no&menu=1>

To download a full copy of the consultation document please visit:
www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

The deadline for evidence submission to ROTA is Friday 4th September

The Consultation

The CYPF grant is a national grant programme aimed at improving outcomes for children, young people and families. The results of this consultation will shape the next round of CYPF funding and will be published on the DCSF website in January 2010.

DCSF feels that this grants programme allows flexibility and a space for creating ideas to meet new need. However, the current process could be clearer and more open; the DCSF would like a new approach to be as straight forward as possible, with a process that focuses on how and where the third sector can best contribute to DCSF's overall plan. During the last round they also received too many applications that did not meet the DCSF plan or criteria, therefore a lot of applications were turned down. This time round they want to be clearer from the start, and believe that this will mean they receive less applications, and that those who do apply will have greater chance of success. Furthermore, they would like funding to support the third sector's ability to engage with national policy and the department.

In order to achieve the above, the department want to be clear about the *purpose* of the funding programme. The consultation document proposes two generic purposes of the programme:

Strategic Funding

For organisations that can:

- Provide 'voice' for the third sector at a national level
- Act as a bridge between DCSF and the third sector
- Provide leadership for the sector
- Influence national policy through expertise or experience
- Work with the DCSF to develop policy initiatives
- Work in partnership to build capacity for the sector
- Support local organisations
- Develop a service which delivers a DCSF priority
- Promote and share best practice

Innovative Funding

For bids that have identified a need and propose a service that compliments what is already been provided locally. These projects should:

- use a *new* approach to address a DCSF priority and share the outcomes of this across the sector
- test how effective the project is by repeating it in other areas
- encourage local services to develop work similar to this

The Questions

The following questions have been developed by **ROTA** and relate to the questions that DCSF are asking. We will use the answers sent to us to respond to DCSF. To respond you do not have to have been funded by DCSF. For the full list of DCSF questions please visit:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

1. Do you agree with the outlined proposal for strategic funding?
2. Do you agree with the above outlined for innovative funding?
3. DCSF is proposing that innovative projects are funded for two years and strategic ones for three years, do you agree with this?
4. Besides from the CYPF grant and other DCSF funding, is there any other non-financial support or information from the DCSF that you would find helpful?
5. Are there any examples of good practice from other funders or Government department grant schemes that DCSF could learn from?
6. Apart from what you have already stated in other answers, are there any other ways that the CYPF grant could support children, young people and families better?
7. Apart from the CYPF grant, what else could DCSF do to improve its relationship with the third sector?

What to do Now

If you would like to send **ROTA** answers to any of the above questions please email them to: carlene@rota.org.uk

Or

Phone Carlene on 020 7902 1134

Or

Post to Carlene Firmin at Race On The Agenda, Waterloo Business Centre, Unit 217 & 208, 117 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UL

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

All answers must be received by **Friday 4th September**

We will use the evidence that you send us to write a template response. This response will be sent out for organisations to use and edit to produce their own response to the consultation. ROTA will also produce its own BAME response, this will be available on the ROTA website once it has been sent in to DCSF.

targeting social policy

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