



**Philip Seccombe  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
for Warwickshire**

## **Decision Application WPCC20094**

# **DONATION TO HEARTSTONE – ANTI HATE CRIME PROJECT**

<b>Application Date:</b>	September 2019	<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	Abby Simkin
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**Application Decision Reference:** WPCC20094

### **1. Summary of the application**

Heartstone have sought a donation to match-fund an anti-hate crime project working with school children through the medium of storytelling in Rugby borough.

Heartstone is a non-profit organisation which aims to challenge racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and build contact, understanding and communication across different nationalities, races, faiths, cultures and background.

The current Story Circle project uses (1) A book, 'The Heartstone Odyssey', a fictional fantasy story, published in the 1980's which led to the formation of Heartstone, and (2) a linked set of exhibition images. Both together provide the vehicle through which to address prejudice/intolerance/hate incidents/hate crime and build literacy with children age 9-12 with an outreach to the surrounding communities. This project was first initiated in 2000 with Home Office and Dept for Education funding at the time under the heading of Citizenship and Literacy.

This project will work with 10 groups reaching 9-12 year old children – classes in schools, groups in community centres, libraries and museums – starting from the autumn running through to Spring or Summer 2020. They will implement the project, following one 2-hour introductory training session, for about 50 minutes each week. Heartstone will continue to support them over the 6-month period of the project remotely through additional conference call and videocall training sessions as required. The project packs for each group contains 30 copies of the book and set of exhibition images providing a second story resource as the foundation for the project. Each group will create an exhibition presenting the ideas, thoughts, feelings and experiences of the children participating following out of the discussions which take place each week. The project will culminate in an exhibition where all the 10 individual exhibitions are brought together with a procession event planned to be staged at The Lowry in Salford on April 25 2020.

The emphasis in the project is to ensure this becomes a sustainable concept, repeated after the first project with subsequent groups of children as the resources to deliver it stay with the group and the adults have been trained to deliver it. It therefore provides an ongoing positive intervention for this age group dealing with hate incidents and hate crime. It also deals with the underlying beliefs and ideas on which intolerant actions are based, thus having a long term impact at the most relevant age group.

## **2. Background information:**

Heartstone offered £6,000 in exchange for an additional £6,000 match-funding to set up an anti-hate project working with school children in a local authority area in Warwickshire

The DPL for Equality and Diversity identified that ideal candidates would either be from the Rugby Borough or Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough areas. Rugby Borough Council agreed to match-fund £3,000 and the PCC has therefore agreed to match-fund the remaining £3,000 as a donation.

## **3. Whether additional information/report is attached to support this decision application**

None

## **4. Expected benefits (non financial)**

Meeting Police and Crime Plan Objectives.

Preventing Crime, Supporting Victims and Survivors, Protecting People from Harm.

## **5. Impact of not approving the application**

Project could not run which would negatively impact potential service users

## **6. Costs**

**Revenue:** A £3,000 donation is requested from the Warwickshire OPCC. This will be match-funded by Rugby Borough Council at £3,000 and by Heartstone at £6,000 to deliver the project.

**Capital:** n/a

## **7. Savings:**

There are no direct cashable savings to the Police and Crime Commissioner's office as a result of the grants being awarded, however, they will help to deliver the Police and Crime Plan aims and objectives, which may deliver longer term benefits.

**8. Equality and Diversity Implications:**

The benefits that this project brings in terms of promoting diversity, dispelling myths and addressing prejudice amongst this key target age group are clear and obvious.

**9. Treasurer's comments**

The £3,000 cost can be met within the existing 19/20 budget

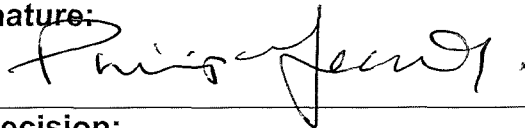
**10. Legal/Monitoring Officer comments**

The PCC has a duty to tackle inequality and to promote fairness and diversity in Warwickshire This project specifically and directly addresses these issues

**Decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

To match-fund the donation request at £3, 000.

**PCC Signature:**



**Date of Decision:**

1/11/19