

Meeting	Trustee Board meeting
Date	22 June 2023
Title	Place2Be strategic grant
Agenda item	7
Paper by	Victoria Southwell

1.0 Purpose of paper

To provide Trustees with information to enable them to approve the proposed grant application from Place2Be.

2.0 Background information

- Trustees will recall that at the March 2023 meeting the strategy document that was approved highlighted a planned partnership with Place2be to develop a school-based resource. This partnership had been shared with Trustees at the February away day in a paper titled 2023 Strategic Legacy grants and outlined how Place2Be had been identified as a potential recipient of a strategic grant.
- Their work with over 600 partner schools across the UK, and access to over 10,000 teachers through their online learning communities and track record of having had over 70,000 teachers access their training, was seen to provide a unique platform to embed information and expertise about young carers in schools. This is something we know is vitally important and something that many young carer organisations struggle to achieve.
- This project would provide us with a unique opportunity to access teaching staff and schools on a scale that could never be achieved by any of our young carer grantees on their own. We will be able to benefit from the skills and reputation of Place2Be and add the expertise of our grantees to enable a relevant and vital resource to be developed.

3.0 Suggested way forward

The information below sets out a proposal of support from Place2Be to develop a resource for schools that shines a spotlight on the needs of young carers and equips teachers and the wider school community with the knowledge and skills to provide appropriate support and understanding.

About Place2Be

Place2Be is the leading children's mental health charity, with over 25 years' experience of providing in-school support and expert professional development to improve the emotional wellbeing of children and young people, families, teachers, and school communities. They are pioneers in prevention and early intervention and offer a range of services in over 600 schools across the UK reaching a total school population of over 350,000 pupils.

Through their professional development programme, they train around 1,200 Counsellors on Placement each year who build their mental health and counselling skills and experience through practice in partner schools. They also provide a range of professional development programmes on mental health and wellbeing for school leaders, teachers and other professionals who work with children and young people, to help build 'mentally healthy' schools and communities where all children can thrive and flourish.

Place2Be have trained over 77,000 school leaders, teachers and other professionals working with children and young people. Those that complete their training have access to an online community hub called Staffroom. Staffroom features a range of resources, tools, and webinars on children's mental health and over 10,000 professionals who work in schools across the country access this platform. The hub is accessed by members of school staff or trainee teachers, including educators, pastoral staff, members of senior leadership and youth workers.

Alongside this The Art Room is a project that uses art to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. Creativity is seen as being a key tool that helps children to thrive and through creative expression children and young people can explore their feelings, identity, and relationships. Similar to Staffroom, the Art Room provides a space for a selection of creative projects that explore well-being themes through creative activities, stories, and conversation. These activities are used to help children, young people, and adults to nurture their relationships together whilst having fun.

Young Carers Legacy Project

Place2Be will utilise their expertise and reach across schools with an aim to **improve identification and support for Young Carer in schools**. They will do this by increasing awareness and understanding of Young Carers experiences and needs across the school community, by:

- Collaborating with a small group of young carers grantees to deliver an **awareness raising** webinar to:
 - Staff in schools via Staff Room – reaching over 10,000 staff
 - Place2Be staff who work in our 600 schools
- Sharing a range of **resources** about young carers and support available via a co-developed blog with young carer services that will feature on Staffroom.
- Working with Young Carers and co-designing an Art Room Legacy Project that will be shared on our website and can be delivered with support from school staff and parents at home.

Next Steps:

- Place2Be and Triangle Trust have had a series of meetings to identify suitable young carer grantees to partner on this project. After much discussion about the needs of the project it was agreed that Signpost Stockport for Carers, Credu, Angus Carers Centre and

MYTIME Young Carers would be invited to participate in the design phase of the project. These organisations were identified due to them either working in a unique location, having shown strong success in engaging with schools on a local level and having a particular level of expertise that would add significant value to the project.

- MYTIME Young Carers has been identified as being the lead partner grantee due to their expertise in the education sector which was seen to bring an additional perspective to the project.
- Over the summer, workshops will be held with young carers from Signpost, Credu, Angus Carers Centre and MYTIME Young Carers to co-design the Art Room Legacy Project and identify the content for the webinar.
- Place2Be and MYTIME Young Carers will develop the blog and MYTIME Young Carers will also participate in delivering the content for the webinar with some of their young carers. They will also continue to provide support and advice to Place2Be about the needs of young carers for a further two years. Place2Be and MYTIME will sign an MoU to formalise the partnership and the funding allocations.
- Place2Be are still costing up the exact budget that will be needed to deliver this project but based on current discussions a grant of up to £60,000 would be necessary. This would include the costs incurred by Place2Be to develop the resources and host them on their current infrastructure, MYTIME Young Carers time for participating in the design and delivery elements of the project (and a further two years of funding to ensure that the resources remain 'live' and current) and the costs of running workshops for young carers which would include travel, refreshments, and staff time.
- The summer months provide a perfect opportunity to engage with young carers and involve them in the design of the project. Whilst there are some elements of the project that are still being worked up, if we leave the decision to fund this project until the October meeting it will be too late to capitalise on the summer break and the availability of young carers. Therefore, I would ask Trustees to agree to the funding as requested and once the finalised budget and work plan has been agreed the actual value of the grant will be updated on Salesforce.

4.0 Recommendation

A grant of up to £60,000 over three years is awarded as per the request in the proposal.