



Coventry City Council

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Public report

## **REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR**

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

8<sup>th</sup> December 2010

REPORT OF: Balbir Sohal, Children, Learning and Young People Directorate

TITLE: Interaction Trust the Difference Leadership Programme

DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008

VENUE: Tanzania, Africa

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### **1. Recommendation**

Acknowledge that the training received on the course resulted in a project that promoted and fostered community cohesion, starting with children and young people and progressing to the wider community. Report was submitted to British Council and it has been featured on their website.

### **2. Background**

#### **InterAction: Trust the Difference**

InterAction: Trust the Difference is an international programme that aims to strengthen leadership in contexts where difference leads to tension and threatens peace within communities.

This is particularly relevant to the community cohesion agenda.

The programme's objectives are to:

- Engage leaders in exploring and discussing global issues that threaten peaceful co-existence within society
- Equip leaders with tools to facilitate difficult conversations across cultures and within communities at risk of conflict
- Share experiences, exchange ideas and explore solutions that will enable leaders to find their own way of building trust and cohesion
- Develop leaders to identify systems, relationships and leverage points for intervention
- Consider new actions, relationships and systems that will strengthen intercultural understanding, build trust, increase resilience, and promote peaceful co-existence
- Strengthen relations and networks between the UK and Africa, through joint learning and working

My job description does include supporting schools in providing strategies to include community cohesion, which is a statutory requirement and also an area that schools will be inspected on. As a result of this course I was instrumental in developing in partnership with CVOne and Parenthesis a project which involved producing the 'Biggest Book in the World ' Project. This literacy project included stories both fictional and non fiction from the children and communities in Coventry, and would be showcased during the summer bank holiday

3. **Cost of attending:** No costs were incurred as everything was paid for by the British Council

**Conference Fees:** N/A

**Flights:** N/A

**Additional Travel Expenses:** N/A

**Accommodation:** N/A

**Subsistence:** Part self financed and part by British Council

#### 4. **Benefits**

- The Big Book has been printed and bound and successfully unveiled on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009
- The project has been extended to incorporate the national BBC RAW project 2010 and folded stories are planned to create the Giant Face of Coventry in the city centre later this year – bring various communities together via the medium of stories
- The Big Book will be available to go on tour to Coventry schools; a travelling case for the book is being created as it weighs over 40kg. As children will not be able to handle the book a A3 version of the book will accompany the exhibit.
- This is an example of successful partnership working in promoting community cohesion

List of background papers

Proper Officer: Director of Children, Learning and Young People

Author: Balbir Sohal, Children, Learning and Young People Directorate

Tel Number: 02476 831168  
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:  
Jo Roberts from Parenthesis

Papers open to public inspection

<b>Description of paper:</b>	<b>Location</b>
None	

THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR COUNCILLORS (FOR ATTENDANCE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE U.K.) AND FOR EMPLOYEES (OUTSIDE THE U.K. ONLY OR, IF ACCOMPANYING A COUNCILLOR, INSIDE THE UK)

1. Title of Conference	Interaction Trust the Difference Leadership Programme
2. Organising Body	British Council
3. Location	Tanzania, Africa
4. Date(s)	15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2008
5. Councillor(s) recommended to attend	N/A
6. Employee(s) recommended to attend	Balbir Sohal
7. Cost per person, including travel, etc	None – British council are paying for everything
8. Is participation at this event as part of a group?	YES
9. If so, how many people IN TOTAL will be attending the event as part of that group?	Number <u>20</u> participants plus British council staff
10. Is there anyone else attending the conference or event with the Coventry delegate(s) or group for whom the Council is not paying the costs of attendance, accommodation, travel, etc? If so, please supply details	NO
11. Source of Funding (FIS Code)	Not Applicable
12. What are the reasons for attendance and what benefits to the City Council are expected from attendance?	<p><b>InterAction: Trust the Difference</b></p> <p>InterAction: Trust the Difference is an international programme that aims to strengthen leadership in contexts where difference leads to tension and threatens peace within communities. This is particular relevant to the community cohesion agenda.</p> <p>The programme's objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage leaders in exploring and discussing global issues that threaten peaceful co-existence within society</li> <li>• Equip leaders with tools to facilitate difficult conversations across cultures and within communities at risk of conflict</li> <li>• Share experiences, exchange ideas and explore solutions that will enable leaders</li> </ul>

- Develop leaders to identify systems, relationships and leverage points for intervention
- Consider new actions, relationships and systems that will strengthen intercultural understanding, build trust, increase resilience, and promote peaceful co-existence
- Strengthen relations and networks between the UK and Africa, through joint learning and working

My job description does include supporting schools in providing strategies to include community cohesion, which is a statutory requirement and also an area that schools will be inspected on. Part of this project is for me to develop a project which will include schools and their communities. I am involved in a working group which is examining ways in which to promote Coventry, one of the examples that we have come up with is a literacy/art project which included support from CVOne and Parenthesis on making the biggest book the world. This will include stories both fictional and non fiction from the children and communities in Coventry. The results will feed into the National Citizenship week in June entitled 'Who do you think you are?'

Completed By/Signed: B.K.Sohal  
Date: 19/11/2008

13. Is this conference part of an overall project involving further visits in the future?

NO not to Africa but will be meeting the African delegates in London in February

14. Recommendation of Cabinet Member/ Cabinet/Chair of any other City Council Committee

- (a) Are you satisfied that there is a genuine reason for attendance and genuine benefit for the Council?
- (b) Will Councillor attendance affect the decision-making processes of the Council?
- (c) Is attendance recommended?

YES/NO

YES/NO

YES/NO

Signed: 

15. Cabinet Member's recommendation	YES/NO Signed: <i>J. Brattell</i> Date: <i>24/11/08</i>
16. Leader's recommendation	YES/NO Signed: <i>[Signature]</i> Date: <i>25/11/2008</i>

**THIS FORM SHOULD NOW BE RETURNED TO THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (Room CH 64)**

**FOR USE OF DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES ONLY**

<b>Decision</b>	Cabinet Member/Cabinet  Date:
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Notification to:	<u>YES/NO</u>	<u>DATE</u>
(a) Councillor attending		
(b) Member of Management Board		
(c) Members' Services		
(d) Committee Officer		

<b>Date report back obtained</b>	
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<b>Date of meeting of Scrutiny to receive report back</b>	
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