



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Grundtvig Seniors Volunteer Programme – Final Conference
Date:	25 th April 2012
Reporting Officer:	Damian Connolly, Environmental Health ext 3607
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1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The "GIVE" (Grundtvig Initiative on Volunteering in Europe for Seniors) is a European initiative which was introduced in 2009. It consists of a scheme of grants to support senior volunteering projects between local organisations located in two countries participating in the European Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).</p> <p>In August 2009, the Councils European Unit sent out a call to other European cities asking for a show of interest should they wish to partner Belfast in this exchange. Various cities made contact; however the most suitable in terms of volunteering opportunities and best practice was Madrid.</p> <p>Fundacion Voluntarios por Madrid (Madrid for Volunteers Foundation), is a non-profit entity for promotion, training and advice in the field of volunteerism. It was set up in 2005 by Madrid City Council. The Foundation is chaired by the Mayor of Madrid and has Elected Members on the Board; the overall responsibility rests with the Director for Volunteering. The joint application with Madrid to the programme was successful and we were awarded 24, 282 Euro. Six volunteers have travelled to Madrid to volunteer for six weeks and Belfast has hosted six volunteers.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The European funded volunteer exchange programme between Belfast and Madrid is due to close in July 2012. The original funding application and budget included the organisation of a final conference bringing all of the volunteers together to celebrate their learning and evaluate the programme. Madrid have offered to host the final conference and to cover the costs of accommodation. Belfast would be required to cover expenses relating to travel and subsistence for the local volunteers, an Officer and a Council Member. All of which can be claimed from the grant awarded.</p> <p>Councillor Bernie Kelly who chairs the All Party reference group on older people has been involved in this project from the initial discussion stages and attended the kick off meeting in Madrid in January 2010.</p> <p>A final report of the project and evaluation will be brought to this committee at the close of the project.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p>There are no resource implications for the Council as all costs are covered by the project grant.</p> <p>Costs for the elected member and Council Officer to attend the final conference are estimated at £300 each and will be covered by the project grant.</p>

4	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is requested to authorise the Chair (or nominee) of the All Party Reference Group on Older People and the Council's lead officer on older people to attend the Final Conference for the Project in Madrid in June 2012.</p>

Key to Abbreviations
None

Documents Attached
None