

WB/20-21/065

Decision taken by: **Ward Member for Folkestone East –
Councillor Michelle Keutenius**

Subject: Hand of Doom Productions

Executive/non-executive decision: Non-executive

Date decision taken: 10 December 2020

Name and address of applicant(s):

Michele Brailsford
35b Westbourne Gardens,
Folkestone,
Kent.

Name and description of project:

Folkestone StoryMap - The grant will be help pay towards stage 2 of the project - recording stories, actors, creating and hosting the website.

DECISION:

To provide funding of £300 to the above project.

Reason for decision:

Folkestone has two of the most deprived areas in Kent and low literacy rates. It is also recognised nationally that children stop engaging with books aged 11. Yet reading and listening to stories increases concentration, confidence, vocabulary, communication skills and empathy, leading to increased life chances. We had a really enthusiastic response from schools who wanted to take part in the workshops. It's such a shame that the project came to a halt as we had some great feedback from teachers from Folkestone schools saying that the children were really engaged in the workshop, especially those who were not normally 'interested' in writing or reading. Engagement levels were consistently high and comments from teachers included the fact that children were given 'freedom to write, based on their

local area.' 'There is so much in the local area to inspire children!' 'We saw engagement in those who are usually tricky to engage in learning.'
Lisa Doherty, the lead for the Early Onset Alzheimer's group, said that the workshop had helped engage clients by challenging them to try something new and inspired a couple of people to start writing stories again.

Declarations or disclosable pecuniary interest/any other significant interest:

None

The decision set out above was made by me.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Keutenius', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**Councillor Michelle Keutenius
Ward – Folkestone East**

10 December 2020