



## Funding for work in England

### New strategy to support more young people

In 2015 the Kusuma Trust UK (The Trust) launched a new strategy that focuses on improving education outcomes for young people in secondary and higher education in India and in England.

The Trust addresses major obstacles in secondary and higher education for motivated young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. Our grants contribute to a range of outcomes, including improvements in student attainment, teaching quality and community engagement, and an increased number of young people pursuing higher education and gaining employment.

The Trust is now developing its work in geographic locations in England based on indicators of significant economic and other deprivation. This includes an initial focus on former coalfield communities.

The direction of the Trust's strategic funding in the UK has been informed by educational research. This includes key findings from Breakthrough Britain II<sup>1</sup>, the report by the Centre for Social Justice on educational inequality in England funded by the Trust in 2014, the State of the Coalfields report<sup>2</sup> published by the Centre for Regional and Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University in June 2014, the English Indices of Deprivation<sup>3</sup> published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in September 2015 and discussions with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT)<sup>4</sup>, The Sutton Trust<sup>5</sup> and The Education Endowment Foundation<sup>6</sup>.

*“Our vision is that every young person has the potential to transform and improve their life, and has the opportunities to grow and develop as active and productive citizens in their communities. Our strategy for 2015-2018 now includes both India and the UK and we will continue to facilitate and increase access to quality education and other life opportunities for disadvantaged young people to enable them to realise their potential and break the inter-generational cycle of poverty.”*

Dr Balwant Singh, Chief Executive, Kusuma Trust UK

As part of the Trust's strategy to support young people in coalfield communities, the Trust has awarded a grant of £134,892 to the CRT for the Young Upstarts programme. The programme is implemented in conjunction with The Youth Association<sup>7</sup> and is aimed at disadvantaged young people from former Yorkshire coalfields who have a business idea or ambition to work for themselves. Participants are recruited through colleges, job centres and other networks. Young people who take part in the programme receive training, which gives them a valuable qualification for the future while testing and shaping their ideas into feasible business plans, and they receive practical and financial support to set up their business. For those who are ready to make their plans a reality, support is provided to get them from start-up through the first stages of trading, and then on-going guidance to help the business become sustainable.



Young Upstarts at a Kusuma funded training event in Barnsley, Yorkshire.  
Photo: The Youth Association

*“At a time when the last mine is closing in Yorkshire, it's vital that everyone is reminded that the challenge for local young people to find work and develop the economy in the former Yorkshire coalfields is as pressing as ever. Kusuma's support for our Young Upstarts programme is at the forefront of the work to raise young people's aspirations and to grow young entrepreneurs.”*

Andy Clow, CEO, The Youth Association

1. <http://tinyurl.com/KTBB2015>

2. <http://tinyurl.com/hjz5hz7>

3. <http://tinyurl.com/olss9pz>

4. <http://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk>

5. <http://www.suttontrust.com>

6. <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk>

7. <http://youth-association.org>



Kristi Arabskj, a Young Upstart who recently set up a beauty salon in Penistone.  
Photo: The Youth Association

*“Young Upstarts helped me with my business plan and gave me the business skills I needed to choose the route to make it possible.”*

Kristi Arabskj, Owner, The Spa 493

### Partnership with the Sutton Trust

The Kusuma Trust UK has partnered with the Sutton Trust by providing funding for a scholarship programme and a university pathway programme for young people studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

### Kusuma Sutton Scholars

Kusuma Sutton Scholars: Ambition Nottingham is a new initiative to support bright state school students pre-GCSE (age 11-16) to boost their aspirations and to support their academic performance. The programme aims to ensure that there is a bigger pool of talented low and middle-income students from which leading universities can recruit.

Kusuma Sutton Scholars supports students in years 7-9 through a series of school visits, project days, campus visits and academic support provided by the university's community learning hubs. Students will also receive advice on their GCSE options and further education choices. The Scholars approach was piloted as a concept at University College London in 2014-2015 for year 8 pupils and was well received by schools and participants. The pilot programme identified a need for such a scholarship in many state schools, where provision for academically able students is inadequate.

The Trust is now supporting the extension of the Scholars programme at the University of Nottingham with a grant of £182,000 over three years. As part of the programme, the University of Nottingham already works with a number of schools in coalfield communities, and by extending the programme from 200 to 300 students a year, more such schools will benefit.

### Pathways to STEM

The Pathways to STEM programme supports academically able low and middle-income state school students to access the most selective STEM university courses and provide them with the foundation for a STEM career through the development of soft skills, a work placement, careers advice and a mentor. Research by the Sutton Trust has identified a strong demand for skills in STEM areas, excellent and growing career prospects and a significant under-representation of those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds at entry and higher levels.

Pathways to STEM includes a range of sessions for students, parents and teachers, including tailored education and careers advice; academic classes in STEM subjects; sessions to develop non-academic skills; a residential summer school; a work experience placement in a relevant STEM setting; assignment of a mentor; and a graduation event for students and parents.

The Trust is supporting Pathways to STEM with a grant of £322,000 over four years. The programme is delivered in partnership with the universities of Nottingham and York, which have highly-regarded STEM faculties, and can draw students from coalfield communities' schools.

The programme will support three cohorts of 100 students split across both universities. Cohort one is supported for four years from year 10 to year 13; cohorts two and three will be supported in years 12 and 13. This will be the first time the Pathways model has been extended into the pre-GCSE years, and represents a significant development for the Sutton Trust's work.

*“We are delighted to be working with the Kusuma Trust on our STEM projects, and very grateful for their generous financial support which will allow us to bring our life changing programmes to more disadvantaged children and young people. We're particularly pleased to be piloting the extension of our Pathways model to pre-GCSE years, and we're confident that earlier intervention will have a greater effect on the students we reach.”*

Julie Randles, Director of Programmes and Partnerships,  
The Sutton Trust

The impact of both the Kusuma Sutton Scholars and Pathways to STEM programmes will be independently evaluated by Durham University's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring.

### Small Grants in England

In addition to supporting projects in the Trust's geographic focus areas, Kusuma is awarding small grants of up to £10,000 to organisations in England. To be considered for a small grant an organisation will need to demonstrate how their project aligns with the Trust's strategy. For more information on how to apply please visit:

<http://www.kusumatrust.org/funding/grant-guidelines/>