

**Agenda Item**            9

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**Date**                    18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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**Title**                    Triangle Trust Grant Strategy 2021

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### **1.0 Purpose of paper**

For Trustees to agree the Grants Strategy for 2021.

### **2.0 Summary**

Trustees will remember at the December 2020 Trustee meeting it was agreed that the 2021 strategy would focus on education support for young carers and employment support for young offenders. This paper sets out the final detail of the strategy and the grants criteria.

- The new strategy will be launched by the end of March with the new website.
- The criteria (appendix one and appendix two) focuses on;
  - Young carers and young adult carers whose education has been impacted by Covid-19. Funding will focus on supporting work in local schools that identify and recognise the issues young carers face, projects that help young carers and young adult carers make up learning after falling behind and support for young adult carers in higher and further education.
  - Young offenders who will be supported to achieve employment outcomes. Applications from organisations working with young women, care leavers and young people from BAME communities will be prioritised.
- An overarching Theory of Change has been developed for the strategy alongside one for each element of the funding (appendices three, four and five). The goal of the strategy is 'The lives of disadvantaged young people are transformed' which links to the aspiration of reduced reoffending rates and better education outcomes.
- This paper provides final detail on the type of projects we will support, the kinds of organisations that can apply, the size of grants we will make and further criteria to manage applications and interest.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

Trustees are requested to

- (i) Feed in any further thoughts on the final wording of the criteria and strategic intentions.
- (ii) Agree the strategy as ready for launch by the end of March 2021.

## 4.0 Supporting information and things to consider

4.1 The decision to have a one-year strategy for 2021 has provided the opportunity to link our funding in the carers and criminal justice sectors through the theme of young people. The Theory of Change (appendix three) that has been developed has the ultimate goal of 'The lives of disadvantaged young people are transformed'. This will link to the rehabilitation of offenders through 'reoffending rates for young people are reduced' and young carers through 'young carers and young adult carers have better education outcomes'.

## 4.2 Young Carers

At the December Trustee meeting we agreed that young carers and education would be the focus of unpaid carers funding. This was a group who had been identified as experiencing significant additional disadvantage due to Covid-19 that had impacted their mental well-being, education, caring responsibilities and feelings of isolation.

The Theory of Change (appendix 4) that has been developed for this element of the strategy identifies the overall goal as 'improved education outcomes for young carers and young adult carers. This will happen through young carers being supported to reduce the amount of time missed in school so that they achieve comparable exam results to their peers.

Below are the three key areas that will form the criteria for the funding;

- **Priorities** - Young carers and young adult carers up to the age of 25.
- **Focus** – Projects that specifically address education challenges caused by Covid-19 and offer additional support. There are three key areas that we will consider supporting; 1) proposals that provide support to young carers and young adult carers who have fallen behind with their learning due to their caring responsibilities and the impact of Covid-19; 2) proposals that enable greater identification of, and support to, young carers by directly working with local primary and secondary schools; and 3) projects that support young adult carers to continue in higher and further education and training.
- Funding can only be used to develop existing work that an organisation is already doing. It cannot be used to set up a brand new young carers project but rather to amplify the impact of work already being done and enable existing support to go further. This might mean a young carers project adding an education component to their current support offer or increasing the amount of work currently being done in this area by working more closely with schools or offering enhanced support around education to those in higher or further education.
- **Types of organisations to fund** – we will only fund organisations that either already work with unpaid carers and have existing young carer projects or young carers specific organisations. We will not fund projects working generally with young people, some of whom are young carers. We also won't fund organisations working with the cared for person who want to support the young person who is undertaking the caring role.

### 4.3 Young Offenders

At the December Trustee meeting it was agreed that the focus of the rehabilitation of offenders funding would be on young offenders securing long term stable employment. This is a group who had been identified as having substantially high reoffending rates compared to older offenders and employment is seen as being a key factor in reducing reoffending.

The Theory of Change (appendix five) that has been developed for this element of the strategy identifies the overall goal as 'reoffending rates for young people are reduced'. This would happen through young offenders being supported to secure stable long-term employment.

Below are the four key areas that form the criteria;

- **Priorities** - Projects that work with young people from BAME communities, young women and care leavers will be prioritised but not the sole focus of the programme at this point.
- **Intervention point** – Proposals can focus on work that either starts whilst still in prison or through the gate. Applicants will need to show that they already work with young offenders and have a track record of securing positive outcomes for them and have the expertise to deliver employment support.
- Funding will only be awarded to organisations with clear employment outcomes and targets for their project. Projects that simply aim to make young offenders more employable or employment ready would not be eligible. Existing employment programmes working with adult offenders would need to show that they have the skills to work with young offenders and can deliver a programme designed to meet their specific support needs. We do not want to support brand new projects to be set up but instead help organisations build on and enhance what they are already doing. Examples of what we might support include funding organisations already working with young offenders to add an employment component to what they do or to develop support specifically for one of our priority groups. An existing employment project working with adult offenders may want to develop their work to engage young offenders.
- **Focus** – Organisations eligible to apply would be both those specifically focusing on securing employment for offenders and ex-offenders and projects more generically focused on the rehabilitation of young offenders who have securing employment as a key named outcome. We know that having a job is a key factor in successful rehabilitation of offending behaviour. Therefore we should support projects that combine both prison based and community interventions that provide support and mentoring to create tangible pathways to employment.
- **Types of organisations to fund** - Currently we only fund organisations working exclusively with offenders and ex-offenders. Young offenders are different to older offenders though and have specific support needs. Many will feel alienated and put off by projects working solely with offenders and equally many of those projects will lack the skills to work effectively with young people. We will therefore accept applications from both specialist criminal justice organisations experienced in working with young offenders and organisations that work with

vulnerable young people and have a track record of already effectively working with young offenders. Any organisation not able to clearly demonstrate this will not progress beyond the first filtering stage of shortlisting.

## **5.0 Grant size and length**

Grants of up to £60,000 over two years will be awarded. The maximum size grant in any one year will be £30,000. As the funding is time limited, we will ask applicants to describe in their proposal how they will continue to run the project once funding ends.

## **6.0 Theory of Change (Appendices 3,4 and 5)**

6.1 A Theory of Change has been developed for the strategy that has the ultimate goal of 'transforming the lives of vulnerable young people' through reducing reoffending rates for young offenders and improving education outcomes for young carers and young adult carers. We will aim to achieve this goal through four key activities – grant making, supporting grantees to network with each other, funding the capacity building of grantees and sharing learning linked to what we do. All of these activities will ultimately help us to achieve our overall goal.

A Theory of Change based on the overarching strategy has also been developed for both of the distinct funding areas we will be supporting in 2021. These three documents will be used to articulate the aims of the strategy, how we are going to deliver it and how we expect change to happen.

This document will also help us to be clear about our purpose which will benefit applicants and grantees and enable us to tell a stronger story about the impact our support has contributed to.

6.2 As agreed at the December meeting the element of the Theory of Change that focuses on capacity building will be delivered by The Cranfield Trust via a grant to them. They will provide selected organisations with consultancy and mentoring support as part of our Funder Plus offer to grantees. This will help those who need additional help with their long term growth and sustainability, especially as we move forward from the impact of Covid-19.

6.3 Sharing learning linked to what we do will form the basis of a Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MEL) strategy that will be developed to complement the 2021 strategy.

6.4 Networking between grantees will be developed over the coming year as part of the MEL strategy and be initially linked to opportunities provided by the new website.

6.5 The Theories of Change have been reviewed by a small group of Trustees before the meeting, as per the timeline for the strategy agreed in December 2019.

## **7.0 Risks**

As we are broadly keeping our funding within the sectors we have traditionally supported the biggest risk the new strategy is likely to face is increased interest and managing application numbers.

The criteria have been developed so as to recognise the types of organisations that most effectively support the needs of our target groups whilst at the same time not being so broad that anyone could make an application. The criteria are clear about the levels of expertise that applicants need to be able to demonstrate as well as a track record. The criteria are also clear about the outcomes that we expect funded projects to be working towards and the specific focus we would expect funding to have. Our new website will give us the ability to force applicants to answer a series of questions about their organisation and work before being able to access the application form link. Those that do not fit the criteria will be unable to proceed to making an application which will filter out many ineligible applications (appendix six).