

Agenda Item 5

Date 1st February 2023

Title Legacy Strategic Grants

1.0 Purpose of paper

For Trustees to discuss and agree areas of focus for 2023 strategic grants linked to exiting the young carer sector.

2.0 Summary

At the October and December 2022 Trustee Meeting we discussed making legacy grants focused on young carers as part of our exit strategy. This was as a result of our decision made in October 2022 to focus the new strategy solely on work supporting young people involved in the criminal justice sector.

- The new strategy needs to be agreed at the March 2023 Trustee meeting and will launch in April, closely followed by our first open funding round.
- Trustees discussed at the December Trustee meeting the budget split between open grant making and strategic grants and agreed that broadly an annual 80/20 split was appropriate.
 - In year 1 of the new strategy, the budget for strategic grants should support legacy grants for work with young carers as part of a formal exit strategy from funding work in this area.
 - From year 2 onwards, strategic grants will focus on work with young offenders and link into the strategy's Theory of Change and overall goals.
- Currently Kinship has a strategic grant to support their work in advancing the recommendations for kinship carers that formed part of the Care Review. This grant is due to run until the end of March 2023 and progress made to date has been extremely positive. A recommendation for considering continued support, for a further three years, at the March 2023 Trustee meeting is included in this paper.
- The paper also includes information about an organisation called Place2Be, who have been identified as a potential recipient of a strategic grant. Their work with over 500 partner schools across the UK, and access to over 10,000 teachers through their online learning communities, provides a unique platform to embed information and expertise about young carers in schools. This is something we know is vitally important and something that many young carer organisations struggle to achieve.

- Funder Plus activities continue to be extremely successful, especially the Peer 2 Peer Exchanges and so it is recommended that we continue to invest in the 'Spark Programme' in partnership with Cranfield Trust.

3.0 Recommendations

Trustees are requested to

- (i) Agree to consider a further 3 years of funding (£90,000 towards the salaries of the Head of Policy and Public Affairs the Media and Communications Manager) for Kinship at the March 2023 Trustee meeting, with a view to the grant starting in April 23.
- (ii) Agree to develop a full proposal from Place2Be, to add young carer specific resources and focus to their work with schools (to be considered at the June 2023 Trustee meeting).
- (iii) Approve a further grant to Cranfield Trust of £30,000 per year for three years to continue providing consultancy/mentoring support and deliver Peer 2 Peer Exchanges as part of our approach to capacity building and encouraging networking opportunities between grantees.

4.0 Supporting information and things to consider

- 4.1 The decision to focus the new five-year strategy on work with young people at high risk of offending or reoffending means that we will no longer be actively making grants to organisations working with carers or young carers. This has obviously been a core part of our activities for over 10 years and whilst there are many funders operating in this area it will mean a loss of a funding stream for the sector.

The intention to focus the budget for year one on strategic grants that continue to support the needs of young carers was well received by Trustees. It was agreed that projects would be identified that would leave a 'legacy' within the sector that have the potential to benefit young carers over the long term. These grants will also help us explain our exit from funding work in this area.

Trustees discussed strategic grants and what they should aim to achieve and how they would differ from our open grants at the December 2022 meeting. It was agreed that strategic grants should be relatively long term (between 3-5 years) and large enough to add key value to grantees. They should involve finding models that have the most impact and that are delivered by good organisations with track records. They also need to link into the five pillars that came out of the Characteristics of Foundations exercise that we did in June 2022, specifically balancing the desire to do more with resources and cost and looking at how we can influence systemic change alongside meeting immediate needs.

4.2 Budget

There is approximately up to £200,000 available for funding strategic work that has a focus on supporting young carers or the carers sector. This money will be awarded as grants during the 2023/24 financial year but will be linked to a grant term that is longer than this.

4.3 Kinship

Kinship is the leading kinship care charity in England and Wales and has been supported by Triangle Trust in 2021 and 2022 through two 12-month grants. The first funded a project in the North East that enabled kinship carers to come together and undertake local campaigns to raise awareness and highlight local needs. The second funded a contribution to a Policy and Public Affairs Manager salary, the services of a media consultant and the costs of a parliamentary monitoring system. All of these functions were linked to taking forward the recommendations that came out of the Care Review which shone a spotlight on the vital role kinship carers play and the lack of support they receive.

The second grant finishes at the end of March 2023 and this funding has enabled Kinship to build huge momentum around pushing for the recommendations that were made to be enacted into law and policy. However, there is still much work to be done. The Government is due to formally respond to the Care Review in early 2023 and even though there is optimism that a national approach to kinship care support could

be identified in the response, there is also the reality that given the current economic climate and major legislative changes that would be required, it will take time.

It is critical that Kinship maintain pressure at this crucial time and continue to move this issue forward. They need to respond to the Government's National Social Care Framework and any consultation issued to influence the Government's proposals. They are also pushing for Government to announce a strategy on kinship care in 2023 and need to influence both behind the scenes and through communications and influencing activity utilising kinship carers. There is also due to be a General Election by the end of 2024 and they need to ensure that specific commitments to kinship care are included in key party election manifestos as well as working with Parliamentary Prospective candidates across all parties.

Post the election they will work with the new Westminster Government to focus on building relationships and ensuring that Ministers follow through on their commitments and that kinship care remains a government priority.

To help them achieve this Kinship would need further support in two key areas – a contribution to the salary of the Head of Policy and Public Affairs and a contribution to the salary of the Media and Communications Manager. This would form an annual grant of £30,000 (split equally between both roles) for 3 years totalling a grant award of £90,000. Review/success criteria would be agreed with them.

Action – Trustees are asked to agree that a formal proposal for funding based on the description above be considered at the March 2023 Trustee meeting.

4.4 **Place2Be**

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity that provides counselling and mental health support and training in UK schools. They provide support early to spot mental health problems before they develop and help children cope with challenges throughout their lives. Alongside a research backed therapeutic approach they offer a menu of different services, including advice and support for families and school staff to build resilience and raise awareness of mental health across the whole school community.

There are over 500 partner schools in England, Scotland and Wales who employ a Place2 Be counsellor in their school to provide support. Alongside this Place2Be provide training and resources for schools and teachers and over 70,000 teachers have accessed online training and materials and 10,000 teachers are actively engaged in the Place2be online community. This provides a ready-made audience for resources around young carers and how to support them. Additionally, schools now need to do an annual audit for the Department for Education on how many young carers they have, so this issue is a pertinent one for school leaders.

Whilst there are resources for schools around young carers, and The Carers Trust run a School's Award, there is mixed take up of these. Projects have reported challenges with getting enough visibility against competing issues, struggling with engagement and ownership after staff changes and schools not having the capacity to engage with young carers as a focus when it is a standalone issue. Furthermore,

schools have complained that even though they are doing good work to support young carers, achieving the national School's Award is onerous and doesn't recognise some of the things they have in place.

Whilst the value of young carer organisations working directly with schools can't be replaced at a local level, the need to embed resources into schools in a more effective way remains an ongoing challenge.

Place2Be already has a framework that is well accessed by teachers and mental health and the associated challenges of being a young carer share a common link. Initial discussions with Place2Be about the possibility of developing a project together have been positive and the beginning of some ideas for a proposal have been discussed. This includes young carers from 4-6 of our current young carer funded projects coming together to co-create a resource that would become part of Place2Be's existing Mental Health Champions Foundation programme. This would not only produce a resource for teachers but also aim to promote Champions within the schools – both teachers and young carers – who would add an additional layer to the work.

Action - Trustees are asked to agree that more detailed discussions with Place2Be take place to further develop a proposal which would be considered for funding at the June 2023 Trustees meeting.

4.5 Cranfield Trust

We are now in the third year of our relationship with Cranfield Trust and in 2021 we began supporting young carer and young offender grantees through the Spark Programme. This gave the partnership between Triangle Trust and Cranfield Trust an identity that made it easier to explain to grantees the ultimate purpose of the support and their participation in it.

In 2022 Peer 2 Peer Exchanges were run with our young carer and young offender cohorts and currently they are taking place with the second young carer cohort. A second young offender cohort will take part in Peer 2 Peer Exchanges from May/June 2023 onwards.

Alongside the Peer 2 Peer Exchanges, consultancy support and mentoring has also been offered to grantees. Of the 2022 young carer projects we supported, 6 assignments have now started for either consultancy or mentoring. As Trustees heard at the December meeting, the impact this has made for some of the grantees has already been significant. Our young offender grantees are all still midway through their first year but take up has also been high for consultancy and mentoring support with 5 assignments currently underway. This demonstrates the high levels of engagement grantees have with the programme and the value it is already delivering. The young offender assessments currently taking place include a discussion about the Spark Programme and interest in accessing this support is high.

The Theory of Change that is being proposed for the strategy includes a named focus on networking opportunities between grantees and capacity building of grantees. The continuation of the Spark Programme would help us to achieve this and the outcomes of grantees 'sharing challenges and learning from each other' and 'strengthening their core functions'.

The recommendation that we adopt an annual theme for our funding will provide an extremely interesting platform for the Peer 2 Peer Exchanges and the fourth strand of the Theory of Change – ‘sharing learning of what works widely’. Therefore, the continuation of the Spark Programme will help us to understand more about the impact we are contributing to and the difference that we are making.

The partnership with Cranfield Trust has worked extremely well and it feels logical to extend this for the length of the new strategy. The current funding has been renewed annually and this creates a lot of work and uncertainty about future plans. Therefore, I would recommend that we confirm funding going forward for a longer period of time. Whilst I have no concerns about the work that Cranfield Trust do it would be useful to formally review the relationship after another three years and subject to all being well extend the grant for a further two years.

Action - Trustees are recommended to agree a further three-year grant for Cranfield Trust to run the Spark Programme. The partnership will be reviewed after this point and either a further two-year grant recommended to Trustees or a different partner identified to deliver the Spark Programme for the final two years of the strategy.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Trustees agree the three areas identified above as 1) forming the strategic grant focus of the Trust for 2023 and 2) agree the timings for considering and approving grant recommendations.